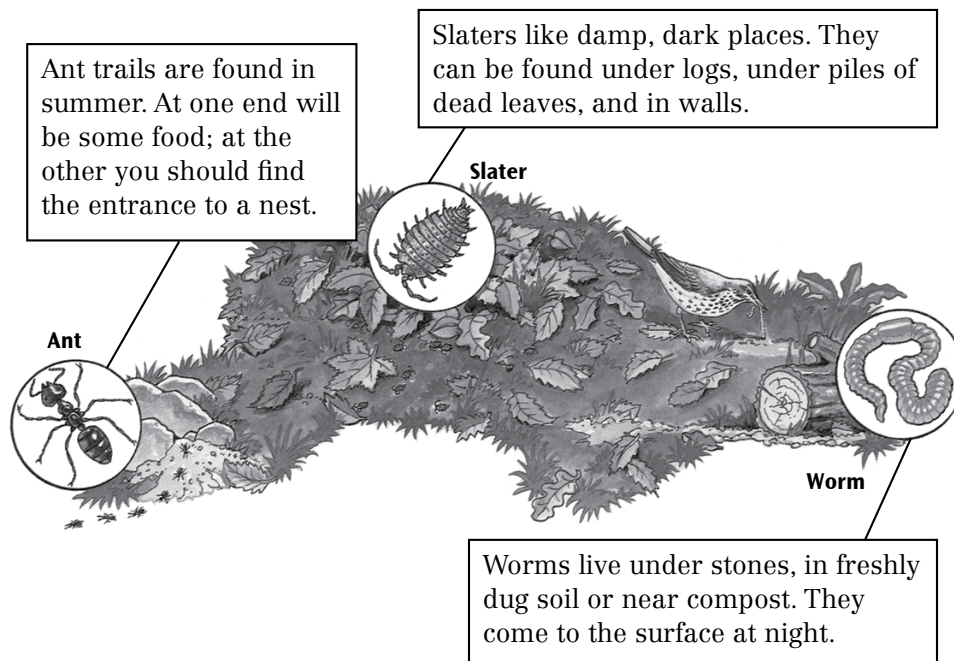


Searching for Food

Here are three projects about the things small creatures eat and the ways they search for food. First you need to find actual ants, slaters, and worms. Treat them carefully and make sure you put them back where you found them after you have finished studying them.

- Follow an Ant Trail
- Study of Slaters
- Make a Wormery

Where to find ants, slaters, and worms





Follow an Ant Trail

Ants live together in nests. When an ant finds some food it makes a trail for others to follow. To do this experiment you will need to find an ants' nest. You will also need the following materials: a sheet of paper, a small piece of apple, a handful of soil.

1. Put the piece of apple on the sheet of paper and lay the paper close to an ants' nest. Wait for some ants to find the apple. They should all follow the same trail.
2. Move the apple. Do the ants go straight to it?
3. Now sprinkle soil on the paper to cover the trail. The ants should scurry around for a while. Do they make a new trail?

What happens?

Even after the food has moved, the ants still follow the old trail until a new one is laid.

Why?

Once an ant has found some food, it produces special chemicals that leave a scent trail. Other ants from the nest use their antennae, or feelers, to sense this scent.