

Lesson 10**Home Sweet Home**

Who made these underground tunnels, air-conditioned castles, and mud skyscrapers? Is this the work of smart, hardworking architects or builders? Yes. Is this the work of men and women? No! It's the work of ants and termites!

Ants

The homes of some ants are made up of underground tunnels and rooms called *chambers*. There are chambers for eggs and separate chambers for baby ants. There are places to store food. And there are snoozing rooms. That's where ants sleep away the winter.

Ants are always fixing and changing their homes. New tunnels are built. Walls are repaired. New chambers are dug out. Other rooms are closed. No wonder ants sleep all winter. They work hard!

Termites

Some termites build castle-like mounds. A termite castle is an excellent example of how clever insects can be. There are tiny holes on the surface of the castle. These holes are not entrances. And they're not exits. Termites don't even fit through them. They're part of the castle's air-conditioning system! Even termites like to stay cool.

Some termite mounds are shaped like mushrooms. Some are shaped like barrels. Others are as tall as giraffes. These are termite skyscrapers! Imagine if humans could build a skyscraper out of dirt and spit, using only their hands as tools. That would be similar to what termites do.

Using a mixture of soil and spit to make mud, some termites build homes with very strong, thick walls. Farmers sometimes have to clear termite nests from their fields. Some termite towers are so strong that the only way to shatter them is by blowing them up with dynamite!

Use with pages 333 and 402.

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 420

SAM Keyword: Main Idea

