

Ant Picnic

Materials Needed:

- ✓ white paper plate
- ✓ Ruler and pencil (From General Supplies bag)
- ✓ Any or all of the items listed below..
- ✓ Something sweet
- ✓ Something salty
- ✓ Something greasy like peanut or other "butters"
- ✓ Your own choice of food you want to add to the picnic

Instructions:

1. Take a ruler and pencil and divide the plate into sections, one for each type of food you want to try
2. Place a small portion of each of the foods into a separate section of the plate.
3. Place the plate on the ground (you can anchor it with a rock in the middle or tape it, if it is windy) somewhere you have seen ants moving around. It is best to place it in an area that does not get direct sunlight.
4. Go for a walk or play on the playground while you wait for the ants to come.
5. When you come back and check the plate, look to see where most of the ants are.

Which of the foods did they like the best? Can you see the ants carrying bits of the food away from the plate? Ants are strong. They can often be seen carting heavy loads back to their nest. In fact, the average ant can carry more than 20 times its body weight in its mandibles (jaws). Now that IS strong!

If you follow them, you may find their nest.