

Ants, Sharks and Camels

ANTS

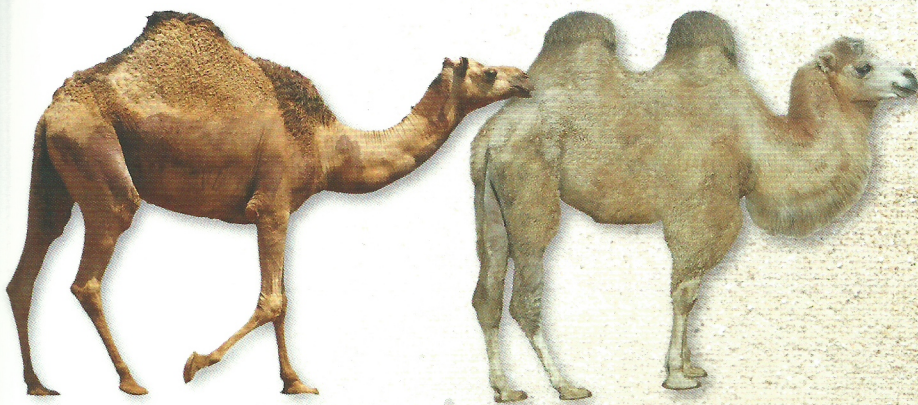
Ants live together in organised **colonies**. They make their homes in **anthills** which are mounds of soil or sand. Each anthill is like a busy little city of ants with tunnels connecting many chambers. There are usually about 5,000 ants living in an anthill, but there can be a lot more! One anthill in Japan had over 300 million worker ants and over a million queen ants!

SHARKS

Sharks have a lot more teeth than humans do! We only have one row of teeth but most sharks have about 15 rows. The bull shark has an incredible 50 rows of teeth. Sharks typically lose one tooth per week but a new tooth grows to replace it within one day. Unlike human babies, a baby shark is born with a full set of teeth. As soon as it is born, it swims away from its mother and fends for itself.

GAMELS

Camels with one hump are called **dromedary camels** (or Arabian camels). Camels with two humps are called **Bactrian camels**. Camels store fat in their humps, giving them the energy to keep going for up to two months without food and water! This makes them very useful in the desert, where people ride them and use them to carry things. Camels may seem big and awkward but they can run as fast as a horse. ■



DID YOU KNOW?



QUICK QUESTIONS

- 1 About how many ants usually live in an anthill?
- 2 How many rows of teeth do most sharks have?
- 3 How many rows of teeth does the bull shark have?
- 4 How many humps do Bactrian camels have?
- 5 For how long can a camel keep going without food or water?