A Colony of Leaf Cutters

Rainforests have animals that are big and small. How do tiny ants meet their needs?

If you visit a rainforest, you may see some ants carrying leaves above their heads. The leaves look bigger than the ants! These ants are leaf-cutter ants.

Leaf-cutter ants work together in a colony. There are many different jobs that need to be done. The queen lays eggs. These eggs grow into soldiers and workers. The soldiers protect the nest. The workers help feed the colony.



Leaf-cutter ants carry leaves above their heads.



Some workers have jaws that are strong enough to break through human skin. These workers cut out pieces of leaves. They carry them back to the nest. But the ants do not eat the leaves! Inside the nest, other workers cut the leaves into small pieces. They use these pieces to grow the food they eat.

Ants may be small, but they work together to survive. Each ant has a different job so that all the ants can meet their needs.

Workers cut out pieces of leaves with their strong jaws and carry the pieces back to their nest.