



Pre/Post Test KEY

1. Are Red Imported Fire Ants Native to the United States?

A: No; they are native to South America

2. What factor can limit the spread of the Red Imported Fire Ant?

A: The climate

3. Can Red Imported Fire Ants be found in Texas?

A: Yes

4. How many body regions does an ant have?

A: Three (head, thorax, abdomen)

5. Do ants have a brain?

A: No

6. Do ants eat solid food?

A: No

7. What are the four life stages of the red imported fire ant?

A: Egg, larvae, pupae, and adult

8. Both Male and Female adult reproductives are winged and mate in the air. True or False?

A: True

9. The larvae develop through four progressively larger stages called instars. True or False?

A: True

10. One of the identifying characteristics of a fire ant colony is the earthen nest or mound. True or False?

A: True

11. The fire ant workers leave and return to the mound through a large distinctive hole in the top of the mound. True or False?

A: False. The fire ant workers leave and return to the mound in lateral tunnels just under the soil surface that radiate (extend in several directions) out from the mound.

12. The mound built by the red imported fire ant is a permanent structure, that lasts for many years. True or False?

A: False. Although ants spend a lot of time and energy setting up and maintaining their mound, the mound is not permanent. If the mound is disturbed, the ants often move and build a new one several feet to many yards away. Sometimes the ants move for no apparent reason.

13. Fire ants prefer to live in shady, wooded areas. True or False?

A: False. Fire ants prefer sunny, open areas to there is plenty of warmth for their developing young.

14. Red Imported Fire Ants are at the top of the _____?

A: Food chain. Red Imported Fire Ants are not a very important food source for other animals or insects, but they are a top predator in the food chain.

15. Name 3 foods that Red Imported Fire Ants eat.

A: Any of the following: insects, small birds, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles that they might find on the ground; oily seeds such as walnuts, peanuts, sunflower seeds, pecans; honeydew produced by sap sucking insects such as aphids, mealybugs and scale insects or other natural sources of sugar.

16. There are over _____ different types, or species, of ants in Texas.

A: 210. There are many species of ants that we never see unless we are looking for them. Some are in our lawns, others are in trees, and some are even in our houses!

17. Most ants are very beneficial because they help to aerate the soil and allow more air and water to reach the roots of plants and trees. True or False?

A: True

18. Name 3 types of common outdoor ants other than Red Imported Fire Ants.

A: Any of the following: Big-Headed Ants, Little Black Ants, False Honey Ants, Pavement Ants, Acrobat Ants, Carpenter Ants, Crazy Ants, Red Harvester Ants, Texas Leaf Cutter Ants, or Native Fire Ants.