

**GRADE 5, MODULE 2A: UNIT 3, LESSON 6**

**Ant Expert Groups Texts**

**Ant Group 1 – Bullet Ants**

Written by Expeditionary Learning for Instructional Purposes © 2012

Based on information in *Discover the Amazon*, by Lauri Berkenkamp and <https://www.msu.edu/user/urquhart/rainforest/Content/Army-Ants.html#LC>

The sting of a bullet ant feels like being shot by a bullet. The sting is extremely painful. They are also called “24-hour ants” because that is how long the pain from their sting can last. According to the book *Discover the Amazon*, by Lauri Berkenkamp, “Some native Amazonian tribes use the bullet ant as part of a ceremony welcoming young men into adulthood. For example, members of the Satere-Mawe tribe of Brazil put dozens of bullet ants into a woven glove. The boys put on the glove and see how long they can stand to have their hands in it. The longer they keep the glove on, the more they prove their manhood.” (page 23)

Even though bullet ants can cause a lot of pain, they aren’t really aggressive. They only use their stingers to help them gather food, or when their nests are attacked. Just before they sting, they make a noise, “Eep, eep, eep,” and they give off a musky smell. That’s your cue to run!

Bullet ants can grow to be as much as one inch long. They are the largest ants in the Amazon, and one of the most common. They resemble large, wingless wasps.

Bullet ants usually build their nests in and around the big roots of trees, and sometimes in holes in trees.