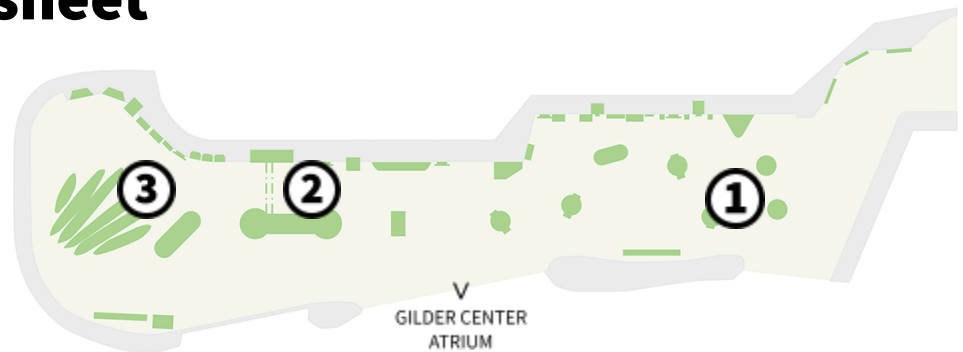


Student Worksheet

Welcome to the Insectarium!
Visit three locations in the hall to explore social insects that live and thrive in very different kinds of environments.



STOP 1 Honeypot Ants

Observe the ants in the lower tank. Look closely at the large bubbles attached to the ants. What do you think these large bubbles are? _____

Look closely at an ant with an attached large bubble. **Sketch** it and **label** its body parts.

Sketch and **note** aspects of the ants' environment.

Read the surrounding text. How does the large bubble help other ants in the colony? **Sketch** and **note** this relationship.

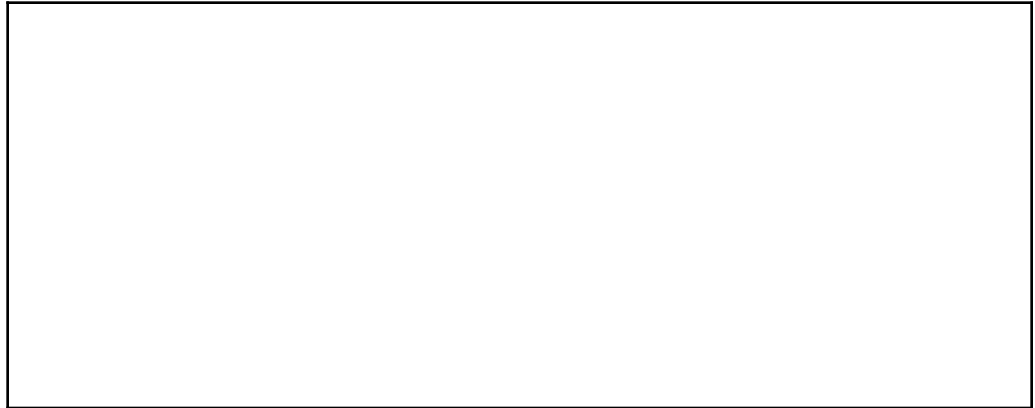
Honeypot ants tend to live in arid environments. How does their food-storage adaptation relate to the environment in which the ants live?

STOP 2 Leafcutter Ants

Examine the foraging area (large tank).

Pick an ant that is doing something interesting to you. **Sketch** and **note** the ant, its body parts, and what it is doing.

Sketch and **note** its environment.



Find the panel on one side of the tank that shows the different castes, or roles, of leafcutter ants. Which caste did you draw above? **Add** information about it to your drawing above, including its size and role in the colony.

Follow the path that the ants are taking from the foraging area to the nest (large glass case in the wall).

Observe one orb for a few minutes. **Sketch** and **note** one thing that you see the ants are doing.



Make an inference as to why this behavior is happening: _____

Read the panel to the left of the nest and **watch** the video to the right of it to explore the interaction between the ants and the fungus. **Note** one interesting **fact** or **question** you might have.

STOP 3 Honeybees

Explore the honeybees area to learn more about social insects. Based on your observations here and in Stops 1 and 2, how do you think individuals within a colony work together as a “superorganism”?
