

Why Ants Are Found Everywhere  
From  
How & Why Stories: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell  
A Story from Burma  
By Mitch Weiss and Martha Hamilton  
Formatted for Readers Theater by Lois Walker

- READER 1: One day, Lion, the king of the beasts, ordered all the other animals to come before him and honor him.
- READER 2: Most of the animals lived a long way from Lion's den but, one by one they came to bow before him.
- READER 3: Tiger arrived first.
- READER 4/TIGER: Grrrrrrrr! Here I am Lion. I represent the tiger family and I now bow before you.
- READER 5: Elephant soon appeared. He lifted his trunk high in the air, trumpeted loudly, and bowed his head to the ground.
- READER 1/ELEPHANT: Oh mighty king of the beasts, I represent the lion family and I now bow before you.
- READER 2: Next Snake slithered in and Lizard was not far behind.
- READER 3/SNAKE: Ssssssssss! I represent the snake family. It may not look as though I'm bowing, but this is as low as I can go!
- READER 4: Lizard didn't say a word. She simply lowered her head and flicked her tongue in and out.
- READER 5: Even Ant set out on the long journey to honor the king of the beasts. It was not an easy trip.
- READER 1: Whenever Ant came to a rock or vine, he had to crawl up one side and down the other.

- READER 2: As a result, Ant was the last to arrive at Lion's den.
- READER 3: When the animals saw Ant coming, they made fun of him. Lion roared with laughter and said,
- READER 5/LION: Groooooowl! It is about time you got here! What took you so long?
- READER 4: Ant crawled back home in shame. He told the Queen of the Ants how badly Lion had treated him.
- READER 1: The Ant Queen was furious. She went to visit her friend Worm.
- READER 2/QUEEN: Worm, I want you to crawl in Lion's ear and torture him.
- READER 3: Worm did not have to be asked twice. He made his way to Lion's den and crept into Lion's ear.
- READER 4: He twisted and turned.
- READER 1: He wiggled and jiggled.
- READER 2: Lion roared. He shook his head back and forth trying to get Worm out.
- READER 5/LION: Groooooowl! Ouch! Somebody get this pesky Worm out of my ear!
- READER 3: The other animals wanted to help, but none was small enough.
- READER 4: Lion knew he would go crazy if he didn't find a way to get rid of Worm.
- READER 1: At last he realized there was only one animal who could help him.

- READER 5/LION: Groooowl! Get a messenger to the Ant Queen. Tell her to send Ant to crawl in my ear and get Worm out!
- READER 3: The Ant Queen smiled and did as she was told.
- READER 4: When Ant finally arrived, Lion was rolling on the ground in pain. Ant crawled into his ear and called out,
- READER 2/ANT: Thank you, Worm. You can come out now.
- READER 1: Lion was so relieved that he rewarded Ant. He said,
- READER 5/LION: Well done, Ant. I have decided that from now on you and your people may live anywhere you'd like.
- READER 2: And that is why, to this day, some animals can live only in the jungle,
- READER 3: some only in the desert,
- READER 4: and others only in the rain forest,
- ALL: but ants live everywhere!