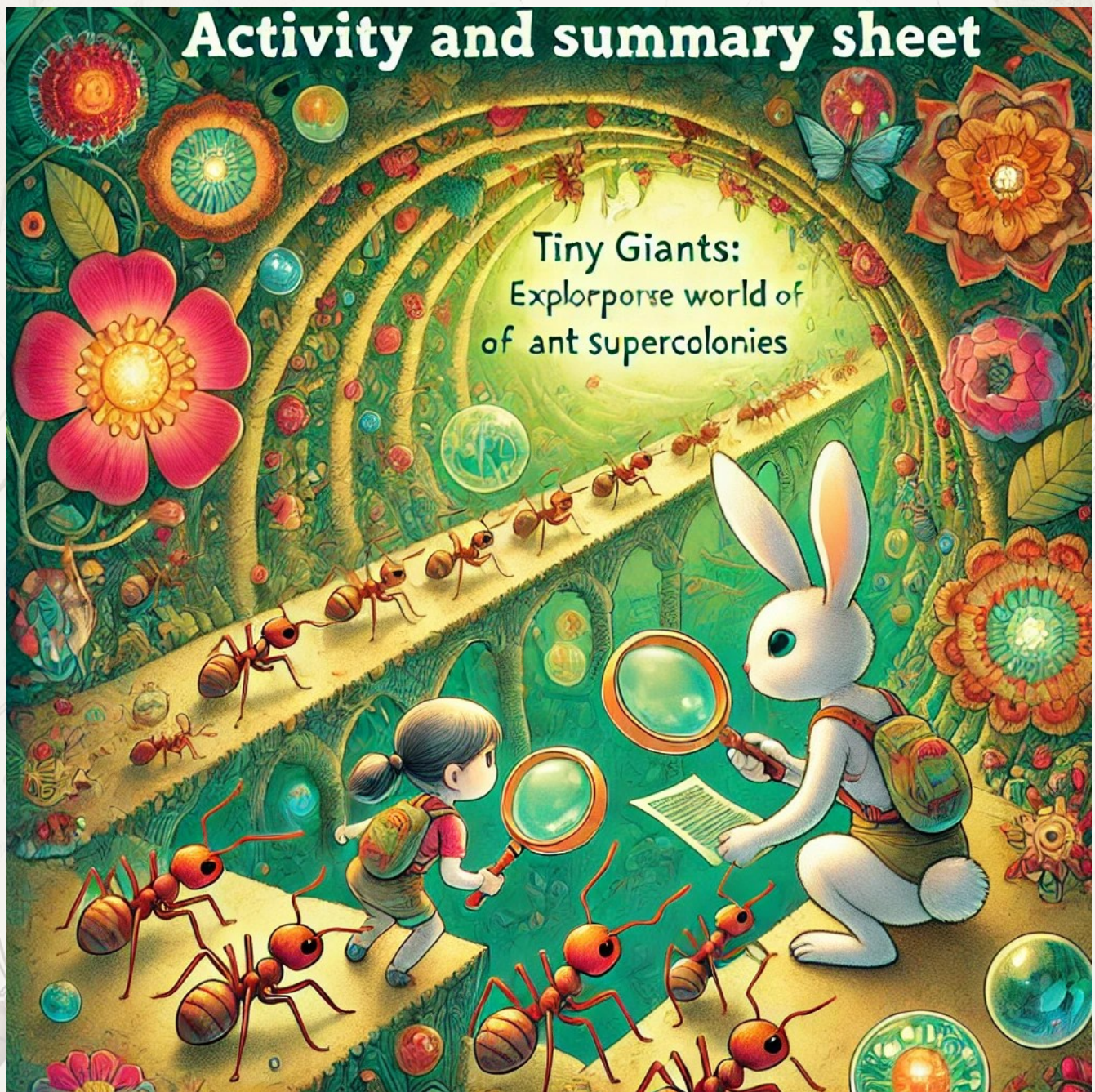




Tiny Giants: Alice Explores the World of Ant Supercolonies

By Alice Presswood

Learn from Nature | Work Together | Build Big Dreams

This activity and summary sheet set takes participants on an exciting journey into the world of ant supercolonies, exploring their incredible teamwork, communication, and ecological contributions. Through hands-on activities, creative storytelling, and reflective prompts, participants will learn how even the smallest creatures make a big impact on the world. Let this guide inspire you to embrace collaboration, solve challenges with creativity, and appreciate the wonders of nature.

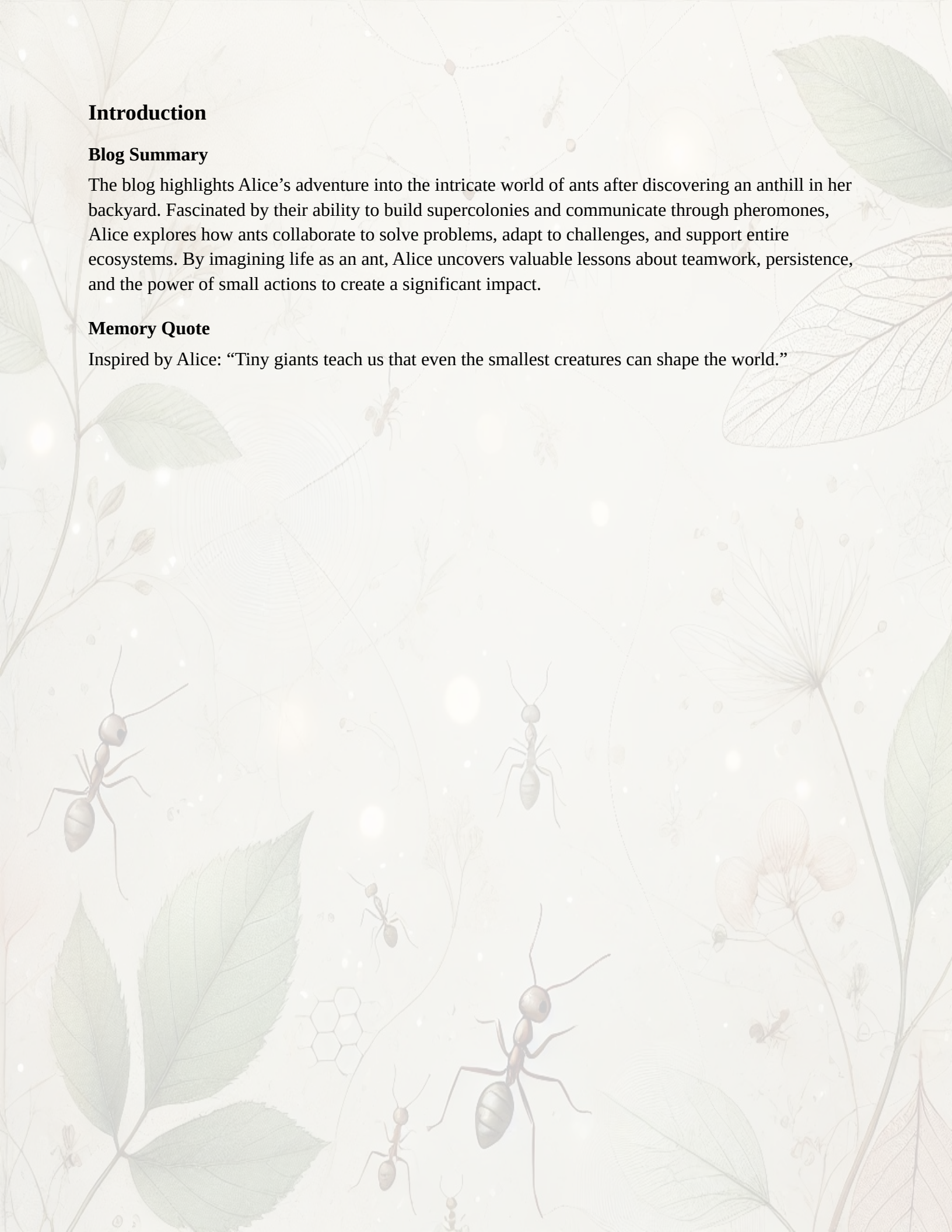
Introduction

Blog Summary

The blog highlights Alice's adventure into the intricate world of ants after discovering an anthill in her backyard. Fascinated by their ability to build supercolonies and communicate through pheromones, Alice explores how ants collaborate to solve problems, adapt to challenges, and support entire ecosystems. By imagining life as an ant, Alice uncovers valuable lessons about teamwork, persistence, and the power of small actions to create a significant impact.

Memory Quote

Inspired by Alice: "Tiny giants teach us that even the smallest creatures can shape the world."



Reflection Questions

Ant Supercolonies and Teamwork

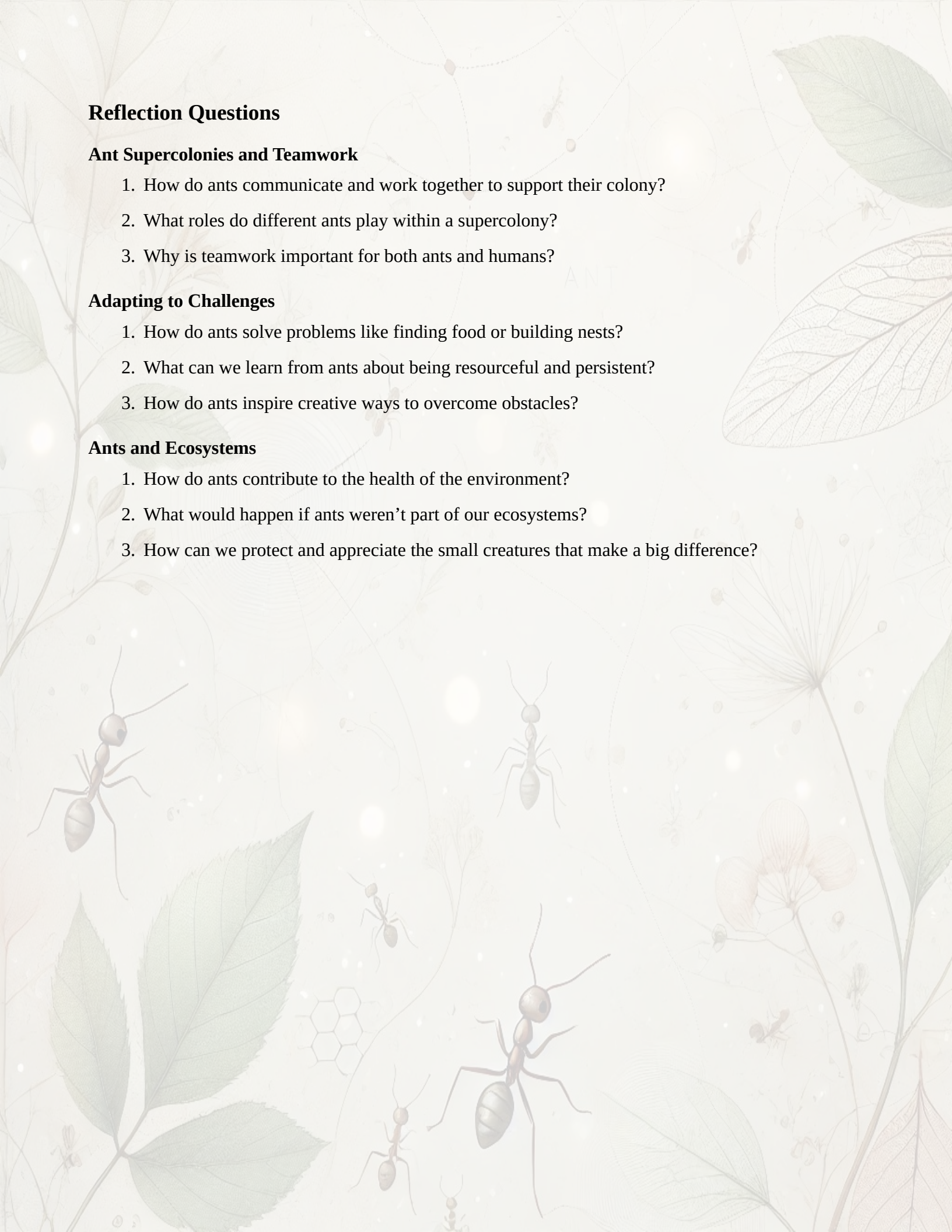
1. How do ants communicate and work together to support their colony?
2. What roles do different ants play within a supercolony?
3. Why is teamwork important for both ants and humans?

Adapting to Challenges

1. How do ants solve problems like finding food or building nests?
2. What can we learn from ants about being resourceful and persistent?
3. How do ants inspire creative ways to overcome obstacles?

Ants and Ecosystems

1. How do ants contribute to the health of the environment?
2. What would happen if ants weren't part of our ecosystems?
3. How can we protect and appreciate the small creatures that make a big difference?



Section 1: Interactive Activities

Activity 1: Build an Ant Supercolony Model

Objective: Create a visual representation of an ant supercolony, highlighting its structure and teamwork.

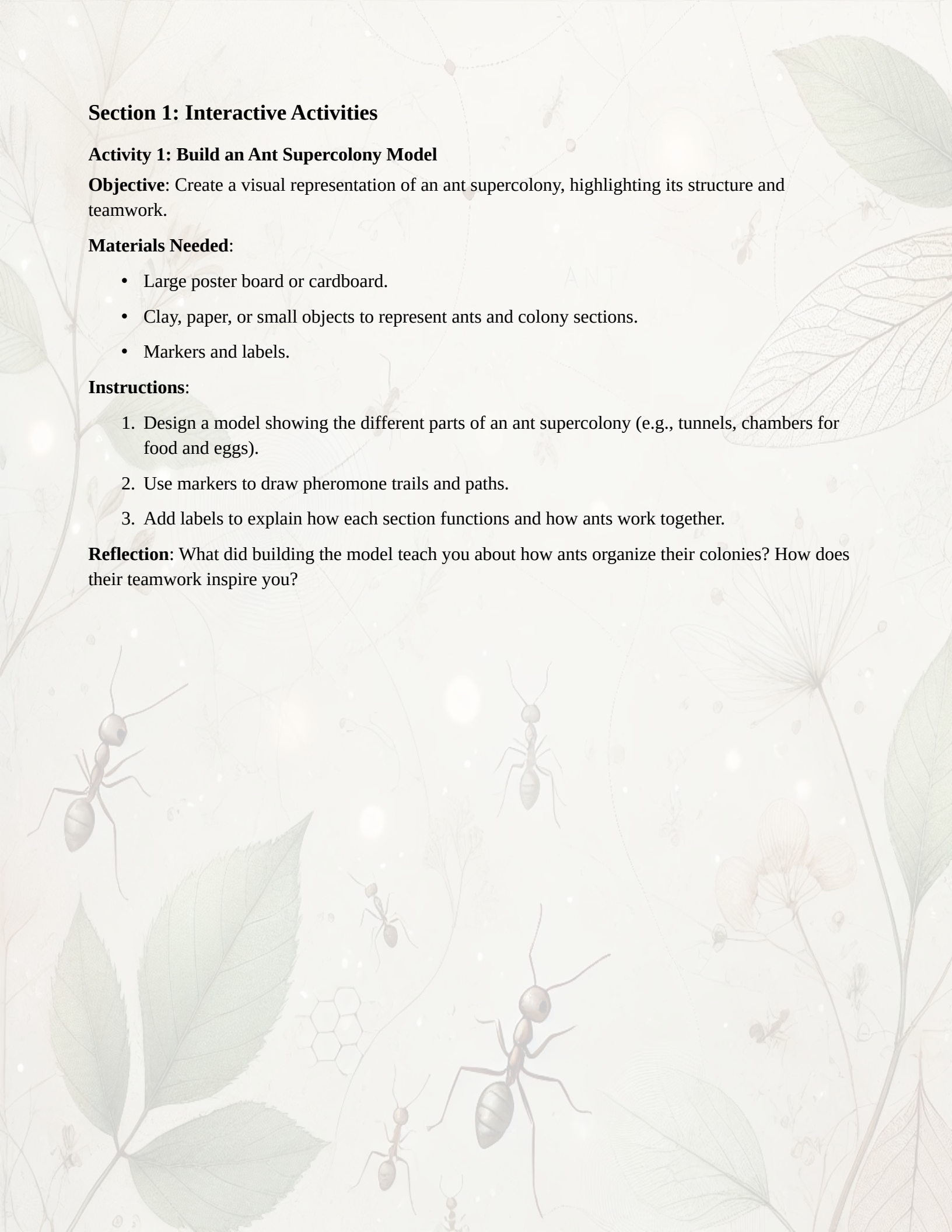
Materials Needed:

- Large poster board or cardboard.
- Clay, paper, or small objects to represent ants and colony sections.
- Markers and labels.

Instructions:

1. Design a model showing the different parts of an ant supercolony (e.g., tunnels, chambers for food and eggs).
2. Use markers to draw pheromone trails and paths.
3. Add labels to explain how each section functions and how ants work together.

Reflection: What did building the model teach you about how ants organize their colonies? How does their teamwork inspire you?



Activity 2: Experiment with Pheromone Trails

Objective: Simulate how ants use pheromones to communicate and find food.

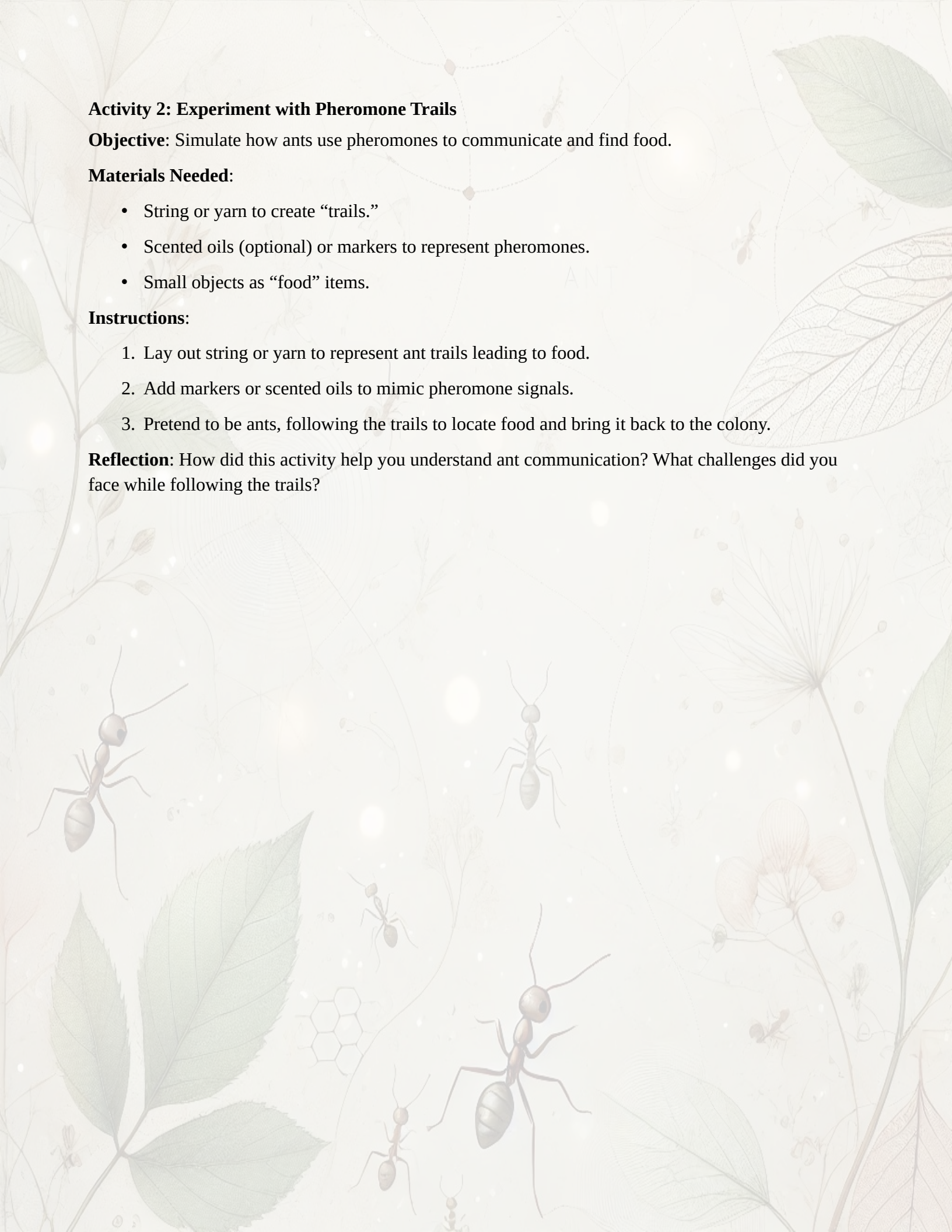
Materials Needed:

- String or yarn to create “trails.”
- Scented oils (optional) or markers to represent pheromones.
- Small objects as “food” items.

Instructions:

1. Lay out string or yarn to represent ant trails leading to food.
2. Add markers or scented oils to mimic pheromone signals.
3. Pretend to be ants, following the trails to locate food and bring it back to the colony.

Reflection: How did this activity help you understand ant communication? What challenges did you face while following the trails?



Activity 3: Create an Ant-Themed Storybook

Objective: Write and illustrate a story about an ant's journey, showcasing its teamwork and problem-solving abilities.

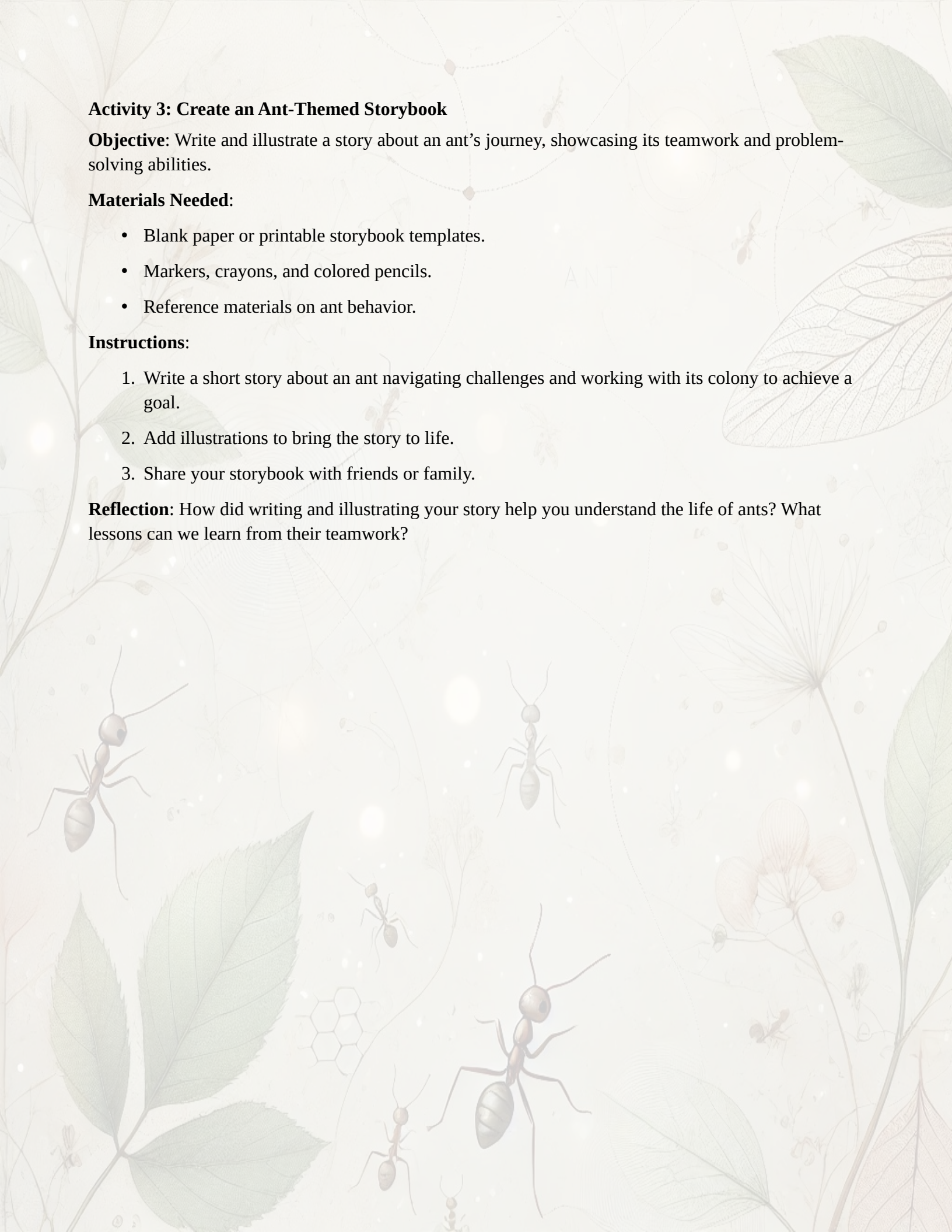
Materials Needed:

- Blank paper or printable storybook templates.
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils.
- Reference materials on ant behavior.

Instructions:

1. Write a short story about an ant navigating challenges and working with its colony to achieve a goal.
2. Add illustrations to bring the story to life.
3. Share your storybook with friends or family.

Reflection: How did writing and illustrating your story help you understand the life of ants? What lessons can we learn from their teamwork?

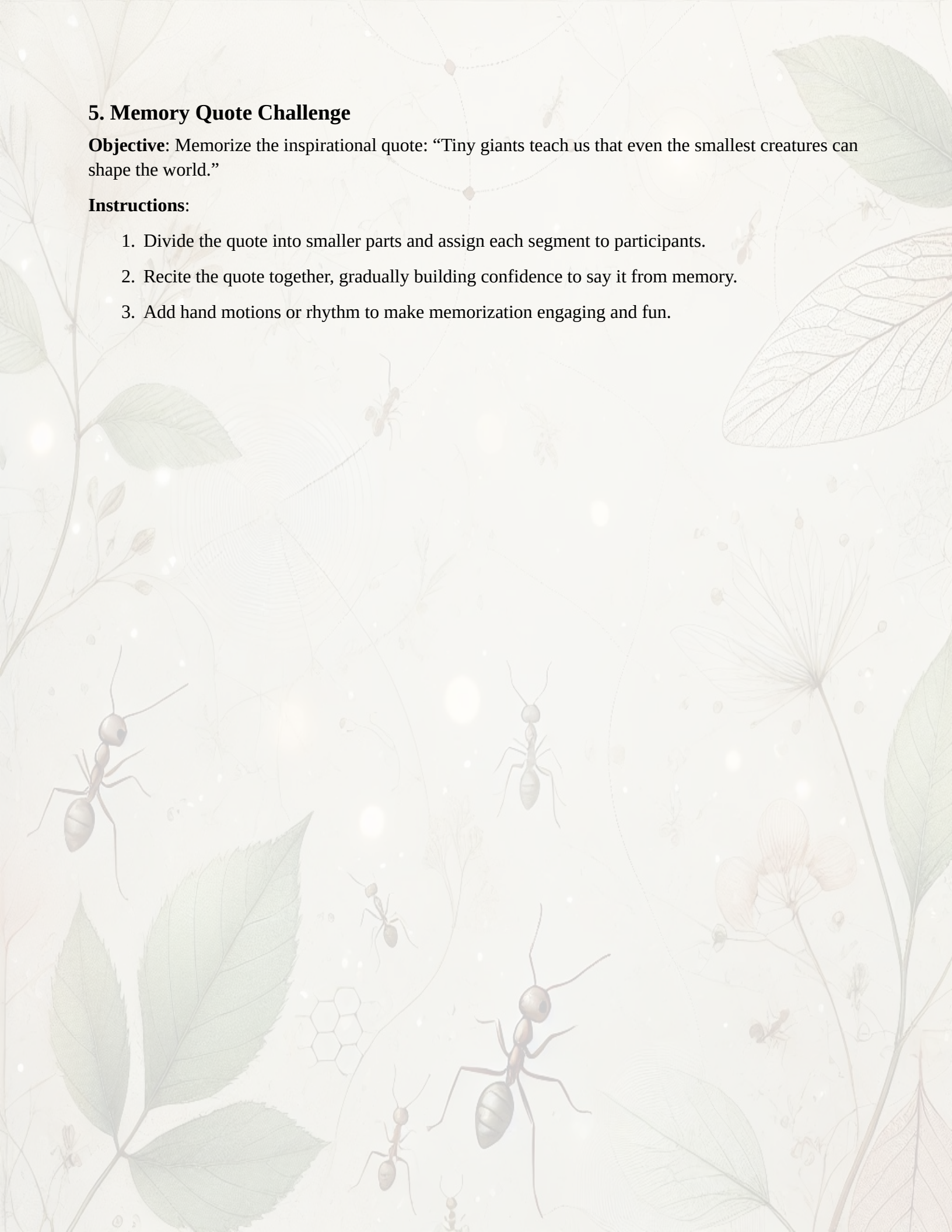


5. Memory Quote Challenge

Objective: Memorize the inspirational quote: “Tiny giants teach us that even the smallest creatures can shape the world.”

Instructions:

1. Divide the quote into smaller parts and assign each segment to participants.
2. Recite the quote together, gradually building confidence to say it from memory.
3. Add hand motions or rhythm to make memorization engaging and fun.



6. Practical Applications

Ant Supercolony Observation Journal

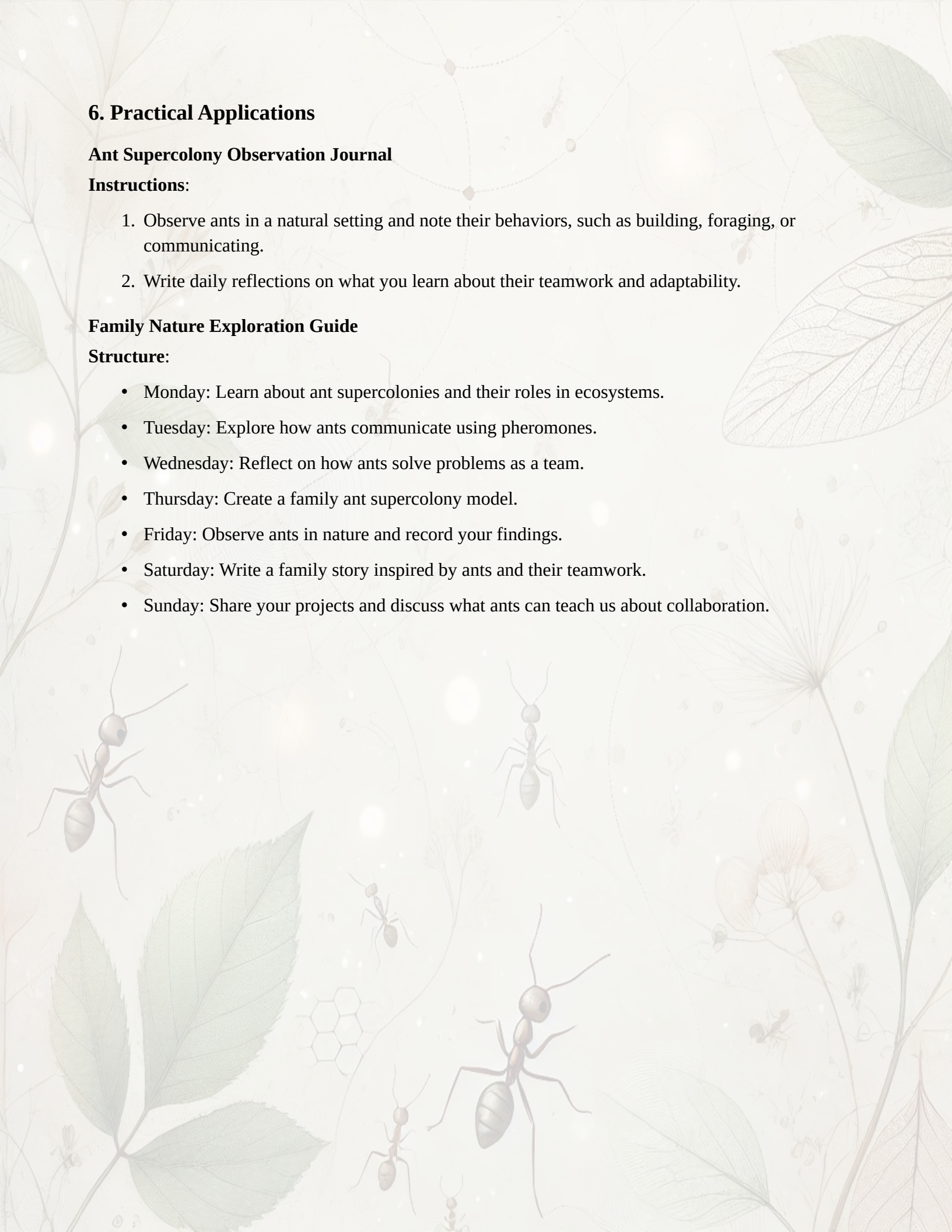
Instructions:

1. Observe ants in a natural setting and note their behaviors, such as building, foraging, or communicating.
2. Write daily reflections on what you learn about their teamwork and adaptability.

Family Nature Exploration Guide

Structure:

- Monday: Learn about ant supercolonies and their roles in ecosystems.
- Tuesday: Explore how ants communicate using pheromones.
- Wednesday: Reflect on how ants solve problems as a team.
- Thursday: Create a family ant supercolony model.
- Friday: Observe ants in nature and record your findings.
- Saturday: Write a family story inspired by ants and their teamwork.
- Sunday: Share your projects and discuss what ants can teach us about collaboration.



7. Closing Reflection

Gratitude Journal Entry

- Prompt: “How have ants inspired me to think about teamwork and problem-solving?”
- Prompt: “What small actions can I take to make a big difference in my community?”

Take-Home Question

- “What lessons can we learn from ants about working together to achieve big goals?”

