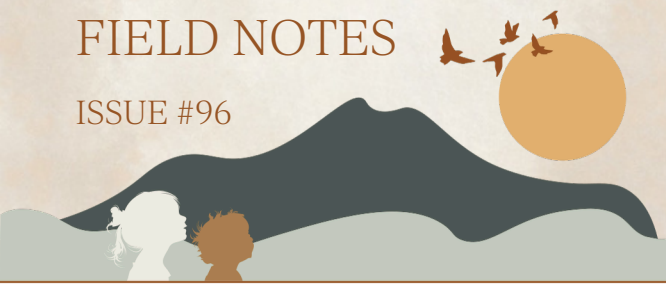


Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #96



Termite

INSECT

HABITAT

Termites live near wood sources in the forest or in the ground. They can also damage our homes because our homes are often built from wood.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

A termite is a decomposer. That means that they break plants into smaller pieces by eating them. Their main food source is plant cellulose which is found in wood. Termites have special microorganisms in their stomach and enzymes that help turn wood back into soil.



HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED THE GAME MARCO POLO?

Marco Polo was a game of tag that I played as a child in the pool. Kids with their eyes closed would say "Marco," and the person they were trying to find would say "Polo." It was a fun way to use our sense of hearing to find and tag our friend.

Many animals have one sense that is stronger than the others. Dogs rely heavily on smell, bats on sound, and sharks on detecting electricity. Did you know that some animals are born blind?

Many years ago, I attended a nature program called "Insects of the Night". That night, I learned about termites. At this station, our assignment was to draw a line on paper with a ballpoint pen. Once completed, we were given a termite. The termite did the most amazing thing: it would follow the ink line. I drew mine in a spiral, and the termite followed the line to the end.

Worker and soldier termites are blind and live their lives in dark places. They cannot rely on sight to find food or one another. They follow scents, called pheromones, left by other termites. Ballpoint pen ink contains a chemical similar to their pheromones. They followed the ink line because they thought it was a friend's trail.

2 Corinthians 5:7, says "For we walk by faith and not by sight." Do you know what it means to walk by faith? Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as having a confidence in what we hope for and an assurance of things we cannot see. When you ask God into your heart, his Spirit lives inside you and grows the faith you have. When life brings challenges and hardships, God reminds us that seeing isn't our best sense. Faith is! When we look around, we can be afraid. When we walk by faith, we can close our eyes and know that God is working all things for our good (Romans 8:28).