

# THE ANT FARM ESCAPE!

Written by Heather Macht  
Illustrated by David Harrington

**Pelican Publishing, 2019**  
Rhyming Picture Book

Hardcover, 32 Pages, Ages 3 - 8

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## STUDY GUIDE AND ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS

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### ABOUT THE BOOK

Did you know that worker ants--just like the ones in this story--are always girls? Compelling ant facts like these fill mini sidebars in this enterprising and informative text! So roll up your sleeves and put on your pink hardhat as you join these industrious ants for a tale of hard work and perseverance. Explore the inner workings of a lively ant colony as these determined laborers construct their underground home. An unexpected plot twist gives these tenacious terraformers in pink a surprising new direction for their community. Dynamic illustrations with humorous details, including tool-filled belts and stylish shoes, fill the pages of this inspiring tale of girl power!

### BEFORE YOU READ

- Ask your students if they think the ants that build nests, gather food, and do all the heavy lifting in an ant colony are boys or girls.
- Discuss observations about ants with your class: do they usually see ants together in a group or alone? Do ants appear to work together as a team?
- Ask your students how many ants they think are alive in the world today (*hint: it's ten quadrillion!*)
- Discuss whether your class feels ants are pests or helpful to our environment.
- Finally, ask why your class thinks ants are such a successful species.

## WHILE YOU READ

- Notice the fun factual sidebars that go along with the story! These can be read after each page, or after the story is finished.

## AFTER YOU READ

- Ask your students if they'd like they think ants would make good indoor pets or if they feel they should stay outdoors?
- Note: as tempting as ant farms are, unfortunately ants do not live very long without a queen.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

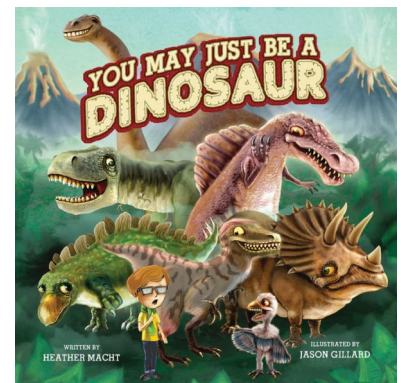
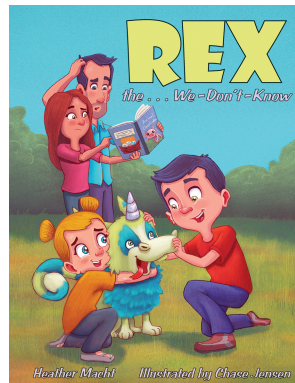
Heather Macht has been creating stories about dinosaurs, insects, and pets since childhood. She earned her AA in fine arts from Florida State College at Jacksonville and has a career in IT, as well as a career as an author and mom. An active member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Macht lives with her family in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.



### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Prolific children's illustrator David Harrington received a Western Writers of America Spur Awards Storyteller Award for his dynamic style of illustration in *Pecos Bill Invents the Ten-Gallon Hat*. He holds a BFA from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.

### OTHER TITLES BY THE AUTHOR



# THE ANT FARM ESCAPE!

## The Ant Farm Escape!

T	G	E	S	C	A	P	E	C	L	X	G
O	I	T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K	P	O
O	R	F	R	E	E	S	A	N	D	S	O
L	L	J	B	H	A	R	D	H	A	T	D
B	S	O	O	U	W	O	R	K	E	R	B
E	W	O	R	K	B	O	O	T	S	B	Y
L	B	Z	Z	R	I	V	E	T	S	E	E
T	C	H	A	U	L	A	A	N	T	S	W

Find the following words in the puzzle.

ANTS  
ESCAPE  
FREE  
GIRLS  
GOODBYE  
TOOLBELT  
WORKBOOTS

HARDHAT  
HAUL  
RIVETS  
SAND  
TEAMWORK  
WORKER



# THE ANT FARM ESCAPE!

Let's get  
to work!





## Let's Make Ants on a Log!

Recipe by Heather Macht

Don't worry everyone, this isn't your typical ants on a log recipe - chocolate is involved! 😊

### Ingredients needed:

- Pretzel Rods
- Chocolate Baking Chips (I'm using white chocolate)
- Chocolate sprinkles

### Steps:

- Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.
  - *Optional: I very lightly butter my parchment paper so there is no sticking.*
- Melt the entire bag of Chocolate Baking Chips:
  - *Note: Check the instructions on the back of your Chocolate Baking Chips. The Ghiradelli chips I'm using gives two options for melting. I'm going to go with the double boiler method, but feel free to use the microwave method, too!*
- Once the chips are melted, quickly cover about half of each pretzel rod evenly with white chocolate (you can do this by dipping them in or spooning the chocolate over them) and evenly space them out on the parchment paper/cookie sheet. You can make as many or as little as you'd like: I'm going with a dozen!
- Let pretzels cool for one minute, then add the chocolate sprinkles in any way or pattern you'd like. I went with the whole, "Oh no, I stepped in an ant pile" look, but you can totally make a single-file line of ants.
- Refrigerate for 20 minutes, or until the chocolate hardens. Once the chocolate hardens, set them out at room temperature for five minutes and remove them from the parchment paper (this will make them easier to remove and avoid pretzel breakage).
- Enjoy with your favorite book: preferably an ant book like **The Ant Farm Escape!**