

Name: _____

The Ants & the Grasshopper an Aesop fable

All summer long the ants toiled in the hot sun collecting and storing food for the winter. Meanwhile, the grasshopper spent his summer playing his fiddle, singing, and dancing.

When winter came, the grasshopper found himself hungry with no food to eat. He went to the ants who were sorting the food they had collected and asked them for some food.



"What!" cried the Ants in surprise, "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper; "It was such lovely weather this summer, I just wanted to play all day."

The Ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.

"You played and danced instead of worked?" they cried. "You can dance now. Maybe it will keep you warm!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

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1. What is the moral (lesson) of the story?

- a) There's a time for work and a time for play.
- b) It is not a good idea to play the fiddle.
- c) Ants are greedy creatures and should not be trusted.

2. Highlight a sentence from the passage that helped you figure out the moral.

3. Read the following sentence from the passage. "All summer long the ants toiled in the hot sun collecting and storing food for the winter." What does *toiled* mean?

4. Was there ever a time you played when you should have worked? What happened?
