

## Lesson Vocabulary

### Words to Know

Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading *Exploding Ants: Amazing Facts About How Animals Adapt*. Practice using these words.

### Vocabulary Words

**critical** being important to the outcome of a situation

**enables** gives ability, power, or means to; makes able

**mucus** a slimy substance produced in the nose and throat to moisten and protect them

**scarce** hard to get; rare

**specialize** to develop in a special way

**sterile** free from germs

## Grammar

### Possessive Pronouns

A **possessive pronoun** is used in place of a possessive noun. Like the possessive noun, it shows who or what owns something. Like a pronoun, it takes the place of a noun, such as a person, animal, or thing. *For example: my/mine, your/yours, his, her/hers, its, our/ours, their/theirs.* Remember that possessive pronouns do not take apostrophes. *For example: its head, its handle.*

### Activity

**Pronoun Exchange** With a family member, look for sentences in a book or newspaper that use possessive nouns. Then substitute a possessive pronoun for each possessive noun. Be sure you check each other's ideas!

## Practice Tested Spelling Words

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