



Name _____ Date _____

Table of Contents

The **table of contents** follows the title and copyright pages. It can give you important information quickly and easily. The table of contents gives you a **general idea** of what is in the book by giving you the titles of the chapters or sections.

How can a table of contents help you? Let's say that you are writing a report about ants. You stand before the science shelves in your library and see ten books about ants. How do you find out which books will help you without reading them all? You use the table of contents in each book.

- **Compare the table of contents pages from two different books about ants. Use them to answer the questions that follow.**

Contents for Book A

- Chapter 1 What is an ant?
- Chapter 2 Why ants build colonies
- Chapter 3 How ants build colonies
- Chapter 4 What ants eat

Contents for Book B

- 1 The ant's body parts
- 2 Types of ants
- 3 Where ants are found in the world
- 4 What ants eat

1. Suppose your report about ants will be about how they build their colonies. Which of the above books will be helpful? How do you know? _____

2. Would you check Book B out of the library? Why or why not? _____

3. Is the title of a book enough to decide whether it will have the information you need? Explain. _____
