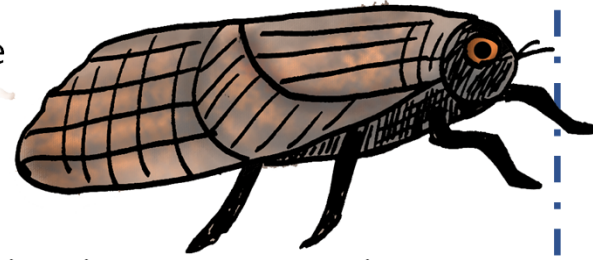


# The Singing Insects

Cicadas are special insects that spend most of their life underground. They are like nature's secret musicians who come out to play music every few years. Cicadas have big eyes and clear wings that sparkle in the sunlight. They are not very big, about the size of a small leaf. These little insects can make a big sound that fills the whole forest. They sing by vibrating a part of their body called a tymbal. Boy cicadas sing to find girl cicadas to be their friends. There are many kinds of cicadas. Some cicadas come out every year to sing their songs. But there are also magic cicadas that stay sleeping underground for 17 whole years! Then, all at once, they wake up and climb out of the ground. This is called an 'emergence'. When they come out, they shed their old skin and get new, shiny wings.



After they get their new wings, the cicadas fly up into the trees. They sing together in a big chorus. It sounds like they are having a huge party! They do this to celebrate being out in the sunshine and to find other cicadas to start families with.

Cicadas are harmless; they don't bite or sting. They just like to sing and fly around. After the cicadas have their big singing party, they lay eggs, and then the baby cicadas go back into the ground to sleep for many years. People and animals like to listen to cicadas because their music tells us that summer is here. So, if you hear a loud buzzing sound outside, look around. Maybe you'll see a cicada singing its heart out, just for you! Remember, if you're quiet and listen, you can hear their music too.

1. Read the passage about "The Singing Insects".
2. Underline each word that you could not read or understand.

# The Singing Insects

Answer according to the reading passage:

**1. What are cicadas?**

- a. special insects like nature's musicians
- b. singing ants
- c. ants that live in the ground

**2. Where do cicadas spend most of their life?**

- a. in the air singing
- b. in the ground
- c. in their nests

**3. How do cicadas make the singing sound?**

- a. there are not enough flowers
- b. bad chemicals
- c. vibrating the tymbal on their body

**4. Why do boy cicadas sing?**

- a. to find a girl friend
- b. to find their mother
- c. to make us happy

**5. What happens during a cicada emergence?**

- a. they sing forever
- b. they shed their skin and get new wings
- c. they go underground for 17 years

# The Singing Insects

## Open Response Questions

### Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
  2. Making Connections
  3. Summarizing
  4. Visualizing
- 
1. Why do you think the cicadas stay underground for so long?
  2. How would the singing cicadas make you feel?
  3. In 2 sentences explain what this passage is all about.
  4. Describe what a singing cicada might look like.
- 
- Could this story be a true story? How do you know?
  - Write a first, next, then and finally about the cicada.
  - Why do you think the cicadas have a big celebration before laying their eggs?
  - If cicadas could talk, what do you think they would be saying?
  - Find out how the cicada contributes to the eco-system.
  - Describe what you think the sounds of a cicada are like.