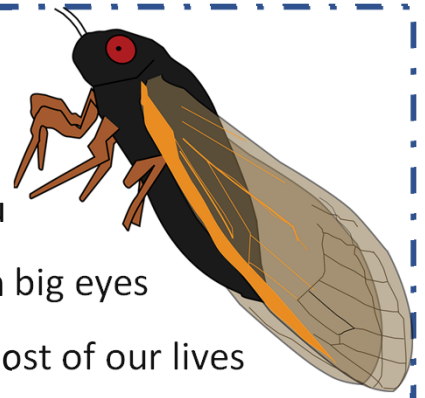


## 3

# My Cicada Life



I am Jess, the cicada and I'm going to tell you about my life. You might wonder, "What's a cicada?" Well, we're little insects with big eyes and wings that shine like glass. But here's a secret: we spend most of our lives sleeping under the ground. I've been napping for 17 whole years! That's a really long sleep, isn't it? Under the ground, it's like a hidden world. It's dark, but it's not scary because I have lots of cicada friends here. We all dream about the day we get to see the sun and the sky. We cicadas are patient; we wait and wait until it's just the right time to wake up.

Then, one special day, we all decide it's time to say "hello" to the world. We crawl out of the earth, and guess what? We leave our old, snug skins behind. It's like getting out of a tight sweater. And then, ta-da! We have these amazing new wings. They're so new they sparkle, and they carry us up into the trees. Once we're up in the trees, we start our music. Oh, we love to sing! It's not just any song; it's a loud, happy buzz that fills the whole forest. The boy cicadas, like me, we buzz to find girl cicadas. It's our way of saying, "I'm here, and I'm ready to make friends!"

Our buzzing is the loudest party in the forest. It's our way of celebrating the warm, sunny days and finding our cicada families. We don't bite or sting; we're the friendly musicians of the forest. After our big buzzing concert, we lay eggs for the next generation of cicadas. Then, the little baby cicadas go underground to start their long sleep. My life is different from some of my other insect friends but I wouldn't change a thing about it, I love being a cicada.

1. Read the passage about "My Cicada Life".
2. Underline each word that you could not read or understand.

# My Cicada Life

Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. What is the name of the cicada in this reading passage?**
  - a. James
  - b. Jess
  - c. Jake
  
- 2. How long has Jess been sleeping underground?**
  - a. 17 years
  - b. 16 years
  - c. 15 years
  
- 3. What do the cicadas do when they come out of the ground?**
  - a. get a new singing voice
  - b. shed their legs and get new ones
  - c. get new skin and new wings
  
- 4. Which statement is true about cicadas?**
  - a. they don't sting or bite
  - b. they do sing and bite
  - c. only the males can sing
  
- 5. What do they do after they all sing?**
  - a. they get new wings
  - b. they lose their skin and wings
  - c. lay their eggs

# My Cicada Life

## 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. What can you learn about patience from the cicada?
3. In 2 sentences explain what this passage is all about.
4. Describe what life looks like underground for a cicada.

- Why is the cicada's emergence considered a special event in nature?
- Why do you think cicadas have such a long life cycle.
- If you could be a cicada for a day, describe your day.
- How do you think the other forest animals and insects think about the cicadas singing?
- Make a list of facts about the cicada.