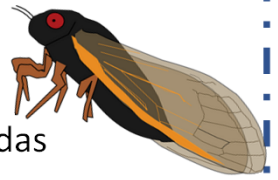


4

The Buzz of the Cicadas



Cicadas are like the rock stars of the insect world. They don't play electric guitars or wear sunglasses, but they sure know how to make some noise! Cicadas are insects that spend most of their lives underground. Imagine being a kid who loves to play hide-and-seek, but instead of hiding for a few minutes, you hide for 17 years! That's how long some cicadas stay buried in the soil. They're like nature's ultimate game of patience. When cicadas finally decide it's time to party, they crawl out of the ground. It's like a surprise birthday bash for the whole neighborhood! But instead of cake and balloons, they bring their singing voices. These voices are actually their wings rubbing together to create that loud buzz we hear. Cicadas are all about music. They gather in trees and compete to see who can sing the loudest. It's like a cicada talent show! The males are the ones doing the singing. They want to impress the lady cicadas with their tunes. If you listen carefully, you'll hear their chorus—like a thousand tiny buzz saws cutting through the air.

Cicadas shed their old skin! Imagine if you could unzip your body and step out of it! Cicadas do this when they're ready to grow up. They molt, which means they leave their old exoskeleton behind and emerge as shiny new adults. It's like getting a brand-new outfit after a long nap.

When the sun sets, the cicadas turn up the volume. Their buzzing fills the warm summer evenings. Some people call it the "cicada symphony." It's a wild concert where everyone has a solo. Each species of cicada has its own unique song. Some sound like a motorcycle revving up, while others hum like an alien spaceship landing.

Cicadas don't stick around for long. After their noisy party, they lay eggs in tree branches. The baby cicadas hatch and drop to the ground. Then they burrow into the soil, where they'll stay for years until it's time to emerge again.

So next time you hear that buzzing in the trees, remember that it's not just background noise. It's the cicadas, rocking out and celebrating life in their own unique way.

1. Read the passage and underline any word or sentence you struggled with.
2. Answer the questions on the following page.

4

The Buzz of the Cicadas

Answer according to the reading passage:

1. **Cicadas spend most of their lives:**
 - a. in trees
 - b. singing
 - c. underground

2. **Where do the cicadas gather to see who can sing the loudest?**
 - a. in the trees
 - b. below the ground
 - c. on the ground

3. **What do cicadas shed?**
 - a. their antenna
 - b. their wings
 - c. their skin

4. **What do cicadas do when the sun sets?**
 - a. molt
 - b. go to sleep under the ground
 - c. sing louder

5. **Each species of cicada has its own:**
 - a. unique wings
 - b. unique song
 - c. looks

4

The Buzz of the Cicadas

Open Response Questions

Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

- 1. Inferring**
- 2. Making Connections**
- 3. Summarizing**
- 4. Visualizing**

- 1. If you were a cicada, what strategies would you use to survive under the ground for so many years?**
 - 2. How does the life cycle of the cicada compare to another animal or insect?**
 - 3. In 2-3 sentences, summarize what this passage is about.**
 - 4. Describe the tune of a cicada.**
- How might a cicada feel during the molting process?**
 - If cicadas disappeared, what impact would it have on the ecosystem?**
 - Describe your life as though you've been a cicada for the last 20 years.**
 - Research and provide 5 more facts about cicadas.**