



EXPLORERS

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CICADA





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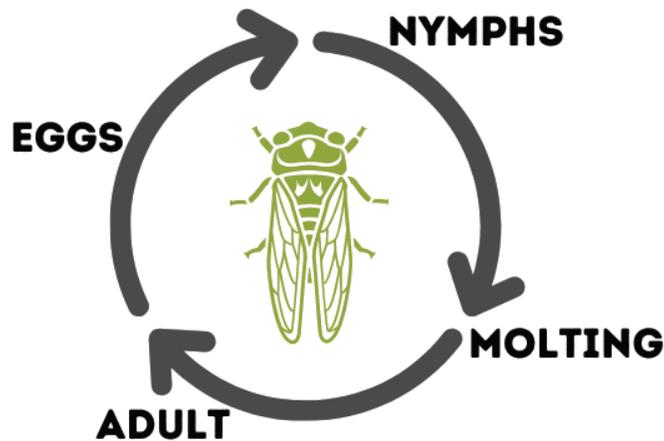
BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT CICADAS

There are many different types of cicadas and some can live as long as 17 years. Generally, cicadas live almost all of their lives underground. Once they come above ground, they typically only live for about 5 weeks. There are annual and periodical cicadas. Annuals come aboveground at different times and are camouflaged so they are not seen by predators. Periodicals all come aboveground at the same time (between 13 and 17 years). Since millions of these types emerge at the same time, their defense from predators is that the predator cannot get them all.

They tend to make a lot of noise. The male cicadas create noise by vibrating plates on their abdomen. Females make noise with their wings.

Cicadas are not scary! They do not hurt people, they do not bite, they do not sting, they do no harm to plants or crops.

LIFE CYCLE OF A CICADA



ACTIVITY IDEAS

Early Literacy Foundations Activity Ideas

<p>Cicada Life Story</p>	<p>After discussing the life cycle of a cicada with the group, give each child a piece of paper that they can fold to make a book out from. Children will draw pictures of the cicada life cycle to tell a story. Children can add additional information to make their book fun and unique. Children will then read their books to each other.</p>
<p>Cicada Rhyming</p>	<p>Start by explaining rhyming words to the group and give them a few examples. Then ask the children to think about the word cicada and if they can think of any rhyming words. The words do not have to be real words, they can be nonsense words. See how many the group is able to come up with.</p>



<p>Sequencing the Life of a Cicada</p>	<p>Using the life cycle of the cicada, show the children each stage. Make sure you use the words – first, next, then, last, etc. Then give the children cards with the different stages on them and ask them to put them in order. Once they are finished, have them explain which is first and why, then second and why, etc.</p>
<p>Beginning Letter Cicadas</p>	<p>Create a list of words that are associated with cicadas and write them out on card and on the back put a picture of the word. Show the children the pictures on the cards and ask them to try to determine the beginning letter sound for each. If they need help, flip the card over and sound it out with them.</p>
<p>Ask and Answer Questions</p>	<p>Using a cicada themed book or a book about bugs, have the children ask and answer questions about the story. See if the children can come up with cicada themed questions. Once you are finished with the story, see if you are able to answer any of the questions or use other resources to answer the questions.</p>

Writing – Fine Motor Ideas

<p>Cicada Drawing</p>	<p>For this activity, children will be following your directions to draw a cicada. Each child will have a paper and a writing utensil. Remind the children to hold the writing utensil with a non-fisted grip. Then give directions for how they should draw their cicada. Remind the children of their grip on the writing utensil throughout the activity.</p>
<p>Move the Cicadas</p>	<p>Collect cicada shells or create cutouts of cicadas for the children to use for this activity. Children will use tweezers to move the cicadas from one bowl to the next. Children will have to use the strength in their hands and their hand-eye coordination to manipulate the tweezers to pick up the cicada and move it.</p>
<p>Lacing Cicadas</p>	<p>Create lacing cards that are shaped like a cicada. Children will each get one and a piece of string or pipe cleaner. They will then use their fine motor skills to lace the string or pipe cleaner through each of the holes. Once the children are done, they can practice unlacing the string or pipe cleaner from the cicada.</p>
<p>Cutting out Cicadas</p>	<p>Start by letting the children draw a cicada on their paper. Remind children to use a non-fisted grip while holding their pencil and to make sure their cicada is pretty big. Once they are finished, children will then practice their scissor skills by cutting out their cicada, trying to say on the line while they cut.</p>
<p>Cicada Words</p>	<p>Create word cards that are related to cicadas. Hang the cards around the room. Children will walk around with a clipboard, paper, and pencil. When they find a word, they will write it down. Then they will continue looking for more words. Once they have found them all, they can draw a picture to go with the words.</p>