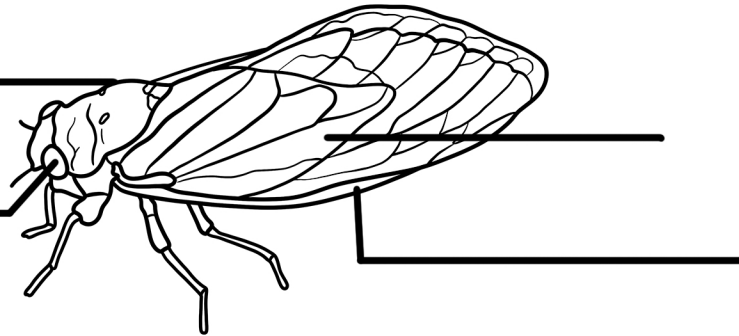


Once upon a time, in a sunny, green forest, there lived little insects called cicadas. Cicadas have a very special story because they have a unique life cycle that is different from many other bugs.

The cicada story begins underground, where baby cicadas, called nymphs, start their life. These tiny nymphs live under the earth for many years, drinking sap from tree roots. They are very patient and wait a long time before they are ready to see the world above. This waiting period can be as short as 2 years or as long as 17 years, depending on the type of cicada.

When it's finally time, the nymphs climb out of the ground. This usually happens when the weather starts to warm up in spring. They find a nice spot on a tree and then something exciting happens—they shed their old skin and transform! Out comes the adult cicada with wings ready to fly. The forest fills with their loud buzzing songs as they look for a mate.

After they lay eggs in the branches of trees, their incredible journey comes to an end, and a new one begins. The eggs hatch into nymphs, which fall to the ground and burrow underground to start the cycle all over again. From the dark, quiet underground to the bright, noisy world above, what a wonderful adventure the cicadas have!



thorax wing eye abdomen

Word Bank:

forest

nymphs

transform

burrow

What are baby cicadas called?



How long can cicadas live underground?

What do cicadas do after they come out of the ground and shed their old skin?

cicadas



climb



spring



hatch



1. Cicadas lay their eggs
in water.

true

false

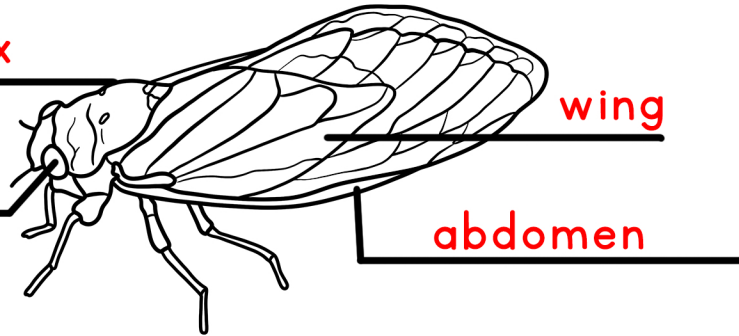
2. The cicada life cycle is
different from most other bugs.

true

false

thorax

eye



wing

abdomen

thorax wing eye abdomen

Word Bank:

forest

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transform

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What are baby cicadas called?

Nymph

How long can cicadas live underground?

2-17 years

What do cicadas do after they come out of the ground and shed their old skin?

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cicadas



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1. Cicadas lay their eggs in water.

true**false**

2. The cicada life cycle is different from most other bugs.

true**false**