



Hey kids, let's dive into the world of an amazing insect, the cicada! These fascinating creatures have a unique look with their large, transparent wings and wide-set eyes that come in a variety of colors. They are famous for the loud, distinctive songs they sing during the summer months. And did you know, cicadas can be found all over the world, from the Americas to Asia and Africa?



Now that we've been introduced to these musical critters, let's explore what they munch on. Unlike some bugs, cicadas aren't the creepy, crawly type that invade your picnic, they prefer to sip on the sap from trees and plants. Using their beak-like mouthparts, they drill into tree trunks and roots to reach their favorite meal. So, no need to squirm, cicadas won't be interested in your sandwich!

Speaking of eating, can you guess which animals might enjoy a cicada snack? Many animals, including birds, spiders, and even other insects, see cicadas as a tasty treat. But don't worry, these clever insects have a trick up their sleeve - they play dead to avoid becoming a meal! And when that doesn't work, their sheer numbers often overwhelm predators, ensuring that many of them survive to sing another day.



Lastly, let's chat about the amazing life cycle of cicadas. After hatching from eggs, baby cicadas, called nymphs, burrow underground where they can live for many years, some species for as long as 17 years! When they finally emerge, they shed their skin, leaving behind an empty shell, and start their adult life. Isn't it amazing that a creature so small can live such a long and fascinating life, singing the songs of summer year after year?



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What colors can cicada eyes be?
A. Just red
B. A variety of colors
C. Only black and white
D. Always blue
- 2) Which animals might see cicadas as a tasty snack?
A. Cows and horses
B. Lions and leopards
C. Dogs and cats
D. Birds and spiders
- 3) Where can cicadas be found?
A. Only in Africa
B. Exclusively in Asia
C. All over the world
D. Just in the Americas
- 4) Where do cicadas live after hatching from eggs?
A. In water
B. Underground
C. On tree branches
D. In bird nests
- 5) What are baby cicadas called?
A. Tadpoles
B. Pupae
C. Nymphs
D. Larvae
- 6) Which months do cicadas sing their songs?
A. Autumn months
B. Winter months
C. Spring months
D. Summer months
- 7) What do cicadas like to munch on?
A. Leaves and tree bark
B. small insects, mostly aphids
C. Seeds and nuts
D. Sap from trees and plants
- 8) How do cicadas reach the sap in trees?
A. Drill into tree trunks and roots
B. Chew through the bark
C. Fly to the tree tops
D. Wait for the sap to drip out
- 9) How long can some species of cicadas live underground?
A. Only a few months
B. Around 5 years
C. One year
D. Up to 17 years
- 10) What do cicadas do to avoid becoming a meal?
A. Release a smelly odor
B. Play dead
C. Release a poison from their skin
D. Make a loud noise

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "When I find a tree I like, I use my mouthparts to drill into it, aiming to sip on as much sap as I can."
- 12) "When it's time to grow, I shed my skin and leave behind an empty shell, just like a crab!"
- 13) "I have a neat trick to avoid danger - I play dead!"
- 14) "We prefer to eat fruits and vegetables."



- 15) "Did you know that I hide underground for years as a baby cicada? Usually it'll be more than a decade, sometimes as long as 17 years!"
- 16) "We shed our skins every week."
- 17) "I'd rather dig into a fruit than a tree trunk."
- 18) "Many animals, I mean many - from birds to spiders, see me as I am, tasty to them!"
- 19) "Did you know that I make a loud 'singing' noise? You'll hear my song during the summer."
- 20) "My unique, wide-set eyes come in different hues; sometimes you might see shades of red or green."
- 21) "Singing? I don't like to make any noise at all."
- 22) "Unlike ants, I don't go for your sandwich. I prefer sipping sap from trees and plants."
- 23) "I don't really like trees, they're too high and hard to climb."
- 24) "I may be found in trees in your backyard, but did you know I can be found in continents across the Earth, too?"
- 25) "Summer? Nah, I prefer the silence and calm of winter."
- 26) "Our average life span is just a couple of months."
- 27) "My sheer numbers can be overwhelming, it's how many of us manage to survive."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 28) A defense mechanism of cicadas is to play dead to avoid being eaten.
- 29) The noise cicadas make is one of the most annoying things about them.
- 30) Cicadas feed on tree sap.
- 31) Cicadas are way more interesting than other bugs because they live underground for so long.
- 32) Cicadas are known for their loud songs in summer.
- 33) The way cicadas play dead to avoid being eaten is impressive.
- 34) After hatching, cicada nymphs can live underground for many years.
- 35) Cicadas can be found in America, Asia, and Africa.
- 36) Cicadas' songs are the best part of summer.
- 37) The most amazing thing about cicadas is their incredibly long life cycle.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Cicadas may stay underground for 17 years.
- 39) Cicadas use their mouths to pierce human skin and eat blood.
- 40) A baby cicada is called a nymph.
- 41) Cicadas often invade picnics and eat human food.
- 42) Cicadas can play dead to avoid predators.
- 43) Cicadas are insects with small yellow wings.
- 44) Cicadas can be found only in the Americas and Asia.
- 45) Adult cicadas only live for a few months.
- 46) Birds, spiders, and other insects may try to eat cicadas.
- 47) Cicadas can be found in different parts of the world, including the Americas and Africa.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 48) Cicadas are not harmful to humans.



Cicadas

Name: _____

- 49) Cicadas have three tiny eyes in addition to their two large ones, how weird!
- 50) Cicadas have transparent wings.
- 51) What do cicadas eat?
- 52) Why do cicadas make loud noises?
- 53) Every 17 years, billions of cicadas emerge all at once, it's like a big noisy party!
- 54) Cicadas spend most of their lives underground.
- 55) Are cicadas harmful to plants?
- 56) Cicadas spend up to 17 years underground, that's almost 2 decades!



Cicadas

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____ 51. _____

2. _____ 27. _____ 52. _____

3. _____ 28. _____ 53. _____

4. _____ 29. _____ 54. _____

5. _____ 30. _____ 55. _____

6. _____ 31. _____ 56. _____

7. _____ 32. _____

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24. _____ 49. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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Cicadas

Name: **Answer Key**

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1.	B	26.	Not	51.	interrogative
2.	D	27.	Would	52.	interrogative
3.	C	28.	fact	53.	exclamatory
4.	B	29.	opinion	54.	declarative
5.	C	30.	fact	55.	interrogative
6.	D	31.	opinion	56.	exclamatory
7.	D	32.	fact		
8.	A	33.	opinion		
9.	D	34.	fact		
10.	B	35.	fact		
11.	Would	36.	opinion		
12.	Would	37.	opinion		
13.	Would	38.	true		
14.	Not	39.	false		
15.	Would	40.	true		
16.	Not	41.	false		
17.	Not	42.	true		
18.	Would	43.	false		
19.	Would	44.	false		
20.	Would	45.	false		
21.	Not	46.	true		
22.	Would	47.	true		
23.	Not	48.	declarative		
24.	Would	49.	exclamatory		
25.	Not	50.	declarative		

