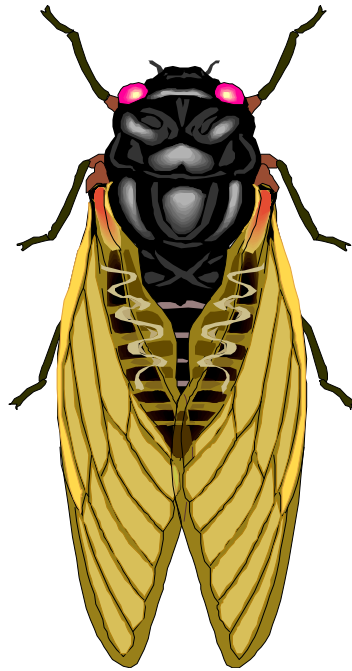


Cicada:



My Home: I am found in North America and throughout parts of the world. I spend most of my life underground as a nymph. For the month I am an adult, I can be found on trees, plants, fences, houses and almost anywhere.

What I eat: As a nymph, I eat the roots of trees. As an adult, I have piercing sucking mouthparts and drink the juices from plant stems.

What I look like: I have transparent wings that can have many patterns or colors, red eyes with a black body and will grow up to be about 3 inches long.

How I am born: I go through three stages of development: egg, nymph and adult. My egg is laid in tree branches and when I hatch I fall to the ground. In my larval stage I am called a nymph and I can live in the ground for many years. Some periodic broods or nests of cicada larvae live in the ground for 17 years! I emerge from the ground and attach myself to trees, plants, or structures until I pop out of my skin and become an adult. As an adult, I only live from 2 weeks to 40 days.

Fun Facts: You can hear the cicada song for up to 1/2 mile away. They only sing during the daytime. The cicada makes the loudest sound of any insect.

There are approximately 2,500 cicada species in the world.