



The Adventures of Jessica Jones & Sox Activity Sheet

Activity – Find a Cicada

Cicadas like the one found in “The Adventures of Jessica Jones & Sox and Grandpa” can be easily found in most countries across the world.

That is if you know where and when to look!

Find out how and give it a go, even if you don't find a cicada you'll be surprised at what you will find!



What you need

Place near where you live that has lots of trees and shrubs where a cicada can live. Then a thirst for knowledge, patience and perseverance.

A notepad and pen, camera, magnifying glass might help.

Definitely leave your phone at home (or on aeroplane mode to use it as a camera).

(turn over...)



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How to find a cicada...

Firstly figure out where and when to look !

Do your research at home.

1. You can ask your parents or teachers. Look at the websites listed below to learn more
 - Watch this fascinating David Attenborough video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWr8fzUz-Yw>
 - general overview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWr8fzUz-Yw>
 - Australian cicada lifecycle <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/inside-the-lifecycle-of-australian-cicadas/6075298>
 - A great website with lots of facts and information especially for the USA but has stuff on cicadas all over the world - <https://www.cicadamania.com/cicadas/>

2. Lifecycle

- As you can see, a cicada's life cycle is pretty grim by our standards. From when they hatch from an egg laid in a tree branch, they feed on the sap for a few days then fall to the ground as small Nymphs and burrow underground.



- They stay underground feeding on the sap from tree roots for between 4 to 10 years depending on the species. Some in the United States stay underground for up to 17 years (known as 17 year batches).



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- As the weather and soils start to warm, often after rain when the ground softens, the nymphs dig themselves out of the soil and emerge, often in LARGE numbers (up to 1 billion per square mile!).
- Then climb up trees for their final moult where they miraculously transform into an adult cicada with wings.



- The adults live in tree and shrub branches, make lots of noise and fly around find to find a mate. Eggs are laid in the sap of branches and the adults die, all within 20 days or so from emerging from the soil.

When to Look.

Spring

As the weather and soils start to warm, often after rain when the ground softens the nymphs dig themselves out of the soil, climb up trees for their final moult. Try going out at night with a torch to see if you can see the nymphs climbing up trees, posts etc.

Or look for discarded moult shells in the morning





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Summer

Listen carefully for the loud calls of the male cicadas – the easiest way to know they are around. Then try to hone in on the call and look on tree and shrub leaves and branches, binoculars will help with this.

Do you know how they make this deafening sound? This link might help you help <https://www.cicadamania.com/cicadas/tag/c-australasiae/>

Autumn and Winter

Most of the adult cicadas have laid their eggs in the sap of branches and died so it will be getting harder to find them out and about. The nymphs will hatch from their eggs and drop to the ground to burrow into the soil to live and grow for years to come.

Record what you learn and find

3. Start a diary or picture book to describe what you find each time you look, the date, make a drawing, put a photo in. This will give you a history of what you see and when.
- Later, find out what species you are observing. You can do that later by checking in a local nature guidebook, searching online or posting a picture on the **iNaturalist** app.
In Australia visit Popple <https://dr-pop.net/cicada.htm> , for other countries visit www.cicadamania.com
4. Learn as much as possible about this species or this environment.
5. Ask yourself 'how & why' questions about it. How does it work? How does it survive? Why does it live where it lives?
6. Suddenly you are a part of your environment - enjoy your connection with wild nature and with yourself.
7. Share your knowledge and excite someone else.

Let nature be your teacher...

Please Remember

Wherever you go - take special care for your own safety and the well-being of any wildlife around you. Avoid approaching and touching any animals you might see but let them come to you if that is what they choose to do. Be sure you are not putting yourself in any danger. If you aren't sure about the safety of an area you'd like to explore – find and ask a local expert.



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