



**Cicadas  
& Charles  
Burchfield**



# CICADA

## **What do they look like?**

**Cicadas are large, stout insects.**

They have round bulging eyes on the corners of their heads, and short, bristly antennae.

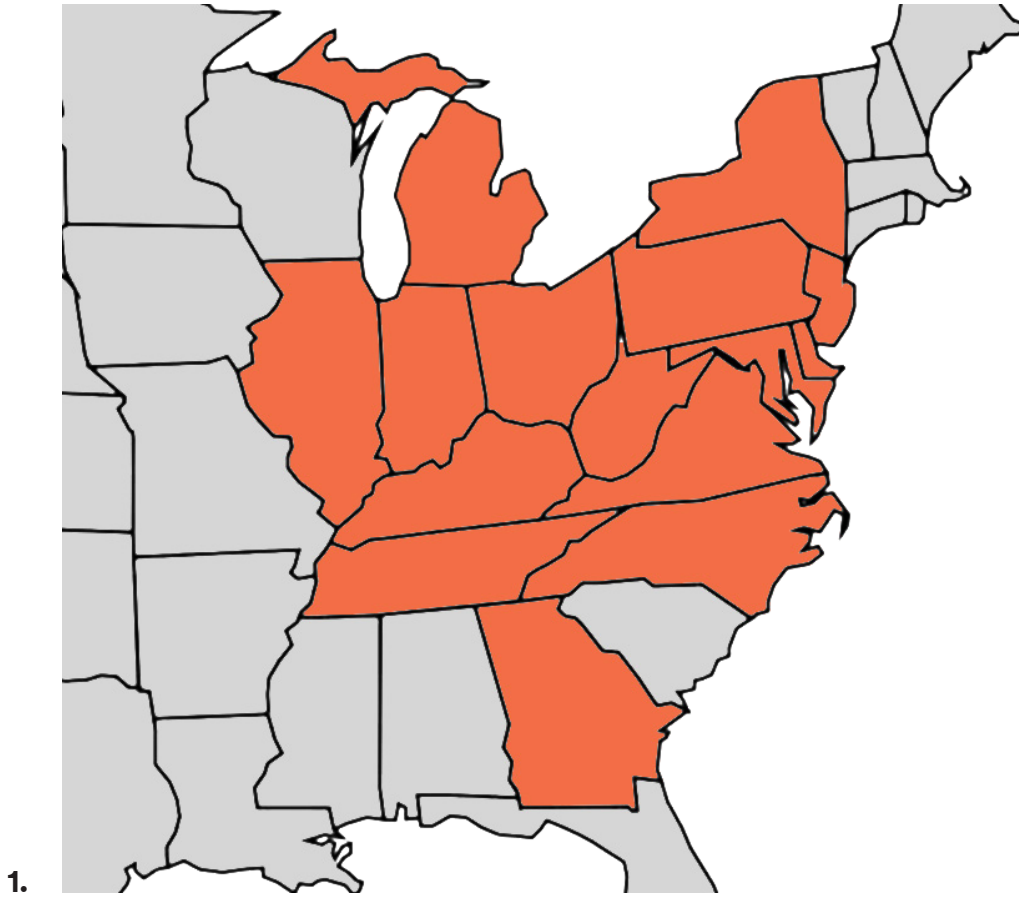
## What is the Brood X species?

Sometime this Spring (2021), **BILLIONS** of cicadas that have been hibernating underground since 2004, will come out and cover the East Coast of the United States with their songs!

If you're in the right location, you won't be able to ignore them!

**Brood X** - pronounced "**Brood 10**" - is one of the **largest of 15 Broods** found in the US.

Every 17 years, they make their dramatic appearance. You'll hear the deafening song and recognize them by their big **RED** eyes.



## **Where can you find cicadas?**

**You'll find adult cicadas in trees!**

Once the young nymphs burrow out of the ground, they will attach themselves to the trunk or branches of a tree.

## **But where can you find Brood X?**

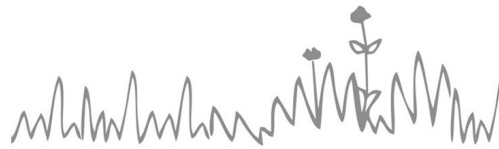
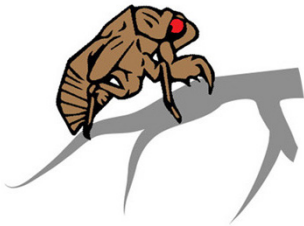
This species of cicadas are most common to the middle and southern U.S. states - from New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey - west to Illinois including hot spots in Indiana and Ohio, and south into Tennessee and northern Georgia.

# Life Cycle of a Cicada 2.

Cicada eggs hatch in tree branches and fall to the ground. They are very tiny, about the size of a grain of rice!



They will stay underground for 17 years! Surviving on the fluids from plant roots.

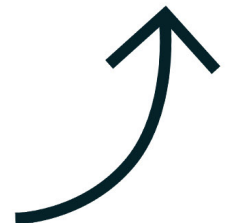


When the time is right, they emerge from underground.

Adult cicadas live on tree trunks and branches, where they will eventually lay their eggs.



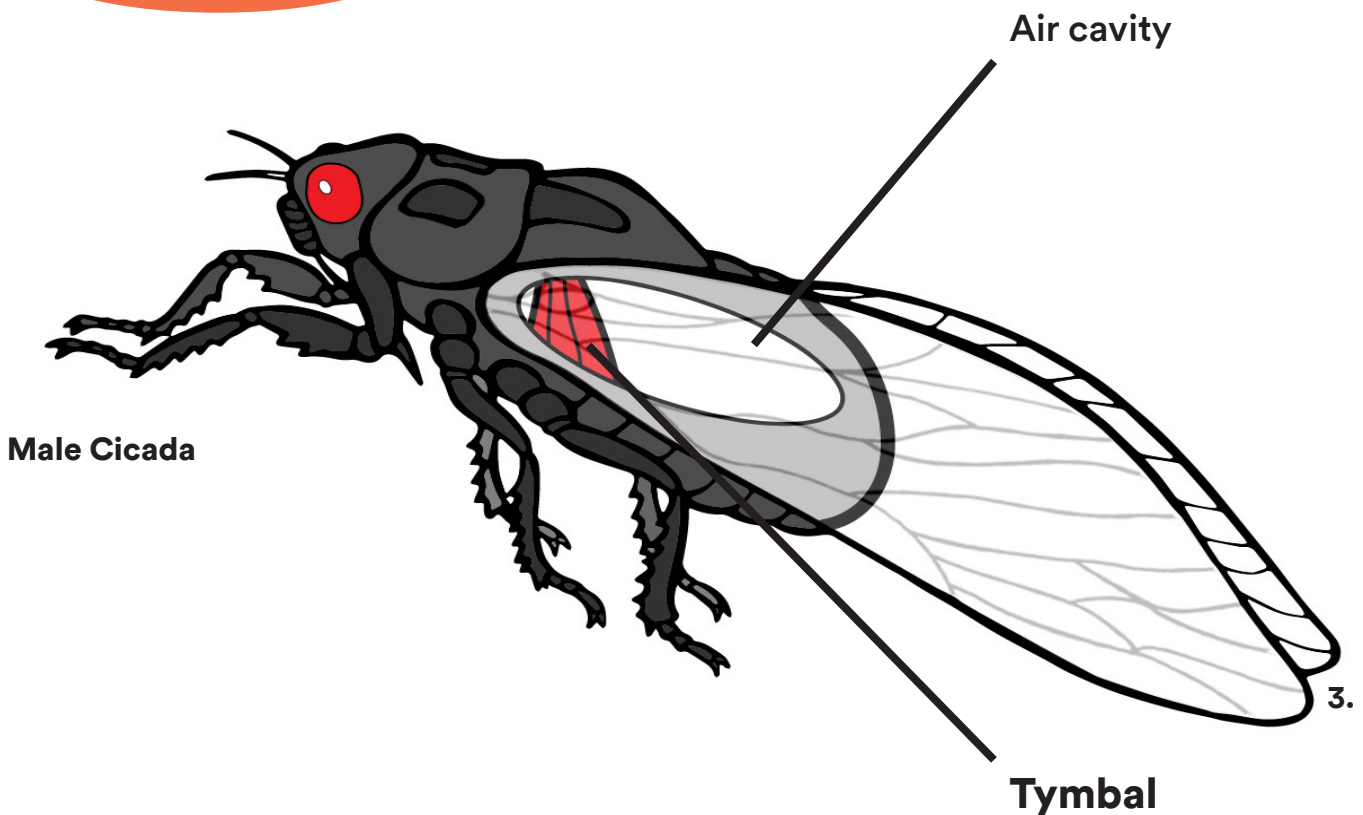
They will climb the nearby trees, shedding their exoskeletons.



## How do cicadas make noise?

Only Brood X males can sing. Cicadas produce this sound using membranes call tymbals, their hollow abdomens amplify their call - similar to blowing a whistle.

[Click here for cicada sound!](#)



The tymbal muscles contract and relax. Which creates a series of clicks - the cicada's distinctive sound.

"I like the cicadas. Their big blunt heads are comical and to come across 1 of the empty shells of the young cicada, on a tree trunk has a charm for me - I don't know why."



4. Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967), Cicada Song, 1951; Watercolor on paper, 24½ x 29½ inches; Private Collection

## Take a Look

Look at the painting, *Cicada Song*, by Charles Burchfield. **What do you see?**

Do you see the **zigzag marks** above the tallest trees? They appear as if they were propelled up by the explosion of sound.

Do you see the **rippling heat waves** extend from the foreground to the background?

Burchfield is known for depicting sound in his paintings, you can see two rhythms happening in *Cicada Song*.



## Take a Look

Audibly, cicadas best characterize summer's stifling heat.

In artworks such as *Cicada and Telegraph Pole*, Burchfield created a specific audio-cryptogram (special symbols Burchfield created for animals, sounds, feeling, etc.) for the cicada's reverberating sound waves.

- Nancy Weekly, Curator

"Its song is for me typical of a sultry summer day. When I hear it, I close my eyes and I see a white dusty road along which I am going in my bare feet (for I am a little boy when I hear it) which are burned by the hot dust from which arise quivering heat waves"



5. Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967), Cicada and Telegraph Pole, 1923-64; red and black conté crayon, carbon pencil, and watercolor on paper, 18 1/4 x 11 1/4 inches mounted on paper board, 20 3/4 x 14 3/4 inches; Burchfield Penney Art Center, Gift of Charles Rand Penney, 1994

# Burchfield Bugs

Transform your name into a buggy artwork!

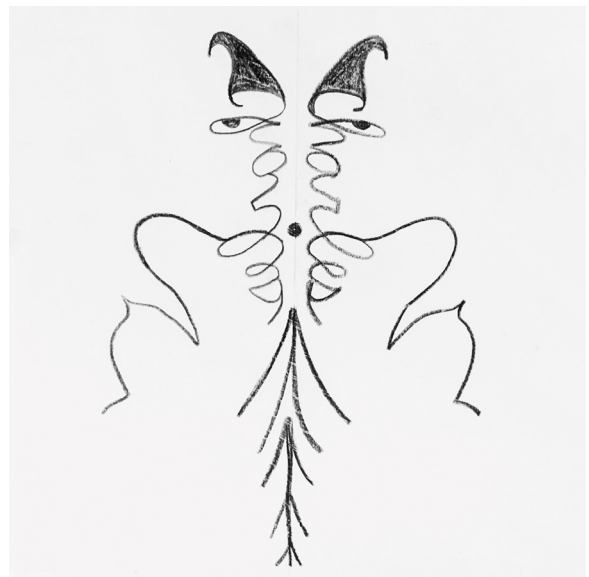
**What You Need:** White paper, Pencil, Black Crayon **Optional:** Watercolor paints, Paintbrushes

## What To Do:

1. Fold your paper in half lengthwise, creasing the fold with your finger, and opening the paper back up.
  2. Write your name on the crease line using a pencil, making sure the letters touch the line and the writing is large enough to take up a lot of the paper.
  3. Fold the paper back up and use a quarter or other object to rub against the paper to transfer the pencil marks to the other side.
  4. Open it up, and your name is on the other side! Now take your black crayon and trace over your name on both sides. Make sure that whatever you do on one side, you do on the other.
  5. When the writing lines on both sides match, go ahead and turn your paper sideways, and you have a little bug!
  6. Now it's time to add your 'buggy' details. You can decorate your name bug in any way your would like. Your only limit is your imagination!
- Optional:** Using watercolors, paint the inside of the letters (using the same color on each side of a letter), creating a mirrored look.



SHOW STEP 4



SHOW STEP 6

## Take a walk!

How do you hear cicadas in person? ***Take a walk!***

Look for cicadas on trees where you've heard cicadas during the day, or where you've seen cicada nymph exoskeletons.

Temperature is also an important factor for hearing cicadas songs. Cicadas will only sing once it's reached roughly 82 degrees Fahrenheit (F) or 27 degrees Celsius (C).

## References and Resources:

### 1. Brood X Map, based on finding from:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/docs/CicadaBroodStaticMap.pdf>

### 2. Life cycle of a cicada:

<https://www.britannica.com/animal/cicada>

### 3. How do cicadas make sound?:

<https://www.cicadamania.com/cicadas/how-do-cicadas-make-sounds-noise/>

### 4. Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967), Cicada Song, 1951

<https://www.burchfieldpenney.org/collection/object:l2011-009-030-cicada-song/>

### 5. Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967), Cicada and Telegraph Pole, 1923-64

<https://www.burchfieldpenney.org/collection/object:1994-001-131-cicada-and-telegraph-pole/>

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