



# ALL ABOUT CRICKETS

Chirp, leap, and discover the nighttime musicians of the insect world!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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## MEET THE CRICKETS!

*Chirp-chirp!* When the sun goes down, you might hear a tiny musician hiding in the grass. It's a cricket! **Crickets** are small insects that sing at night and hop with quick, **springy** jumps.





## WHAT CRICKETS ARE LIKE

Crickets are insects with six legs, two **antennae**, and strong back legs that help them leap great distances. They have long antennae that help them feel their surroundings. Male crickets make the familiar chirping sound, but females do not chirp at all.





## WHERE CRICKETS LIVE

Crickets live in grassy fields, forests, gardens, farms, and sometimes even inside houses. They prefer warm places and often hide under rocks, logs, or leaves during the day. At night, they come out to explore and look for food.

## FROM EGG TO CRICKET

Crickets grow in three stages. A female cricket lays eggs in soil or sand. After some time, tiny **nymphs** hatch from the eggs. A nymph looks like a small, wingless cricket. As it grows, it sheds its skin several times. After its final **molt**, it becomes an adult with wings and is ready to sing, jump, and explore.



## HOW CRICKETS COMMUNICATE

Crickets communicate through sound. Male crickets rub their wings together to make chirping music. This is called **stridulation**. Each type of cricket has its own special **rhythm**. Males chirp to attract females, warn other males, or tell others that danger is near.



## WHAT CRICKETS EAT

Crickets are **omnivores**. They eat leaves, fruits, seeds, and small insects. Sometimes they **nibble** on bark or flowers. Because they eat a wide variety of foods, crickets help clean up the **environment** and keep nature in balance.





## LIFE ON THE GROUND

Most crickets spend their time on the ground or hiding in low plants. Some crickets dig small **burrows** where they rest during the day or hide from predators. Crickets are most active at night when the air is cooler and safer.



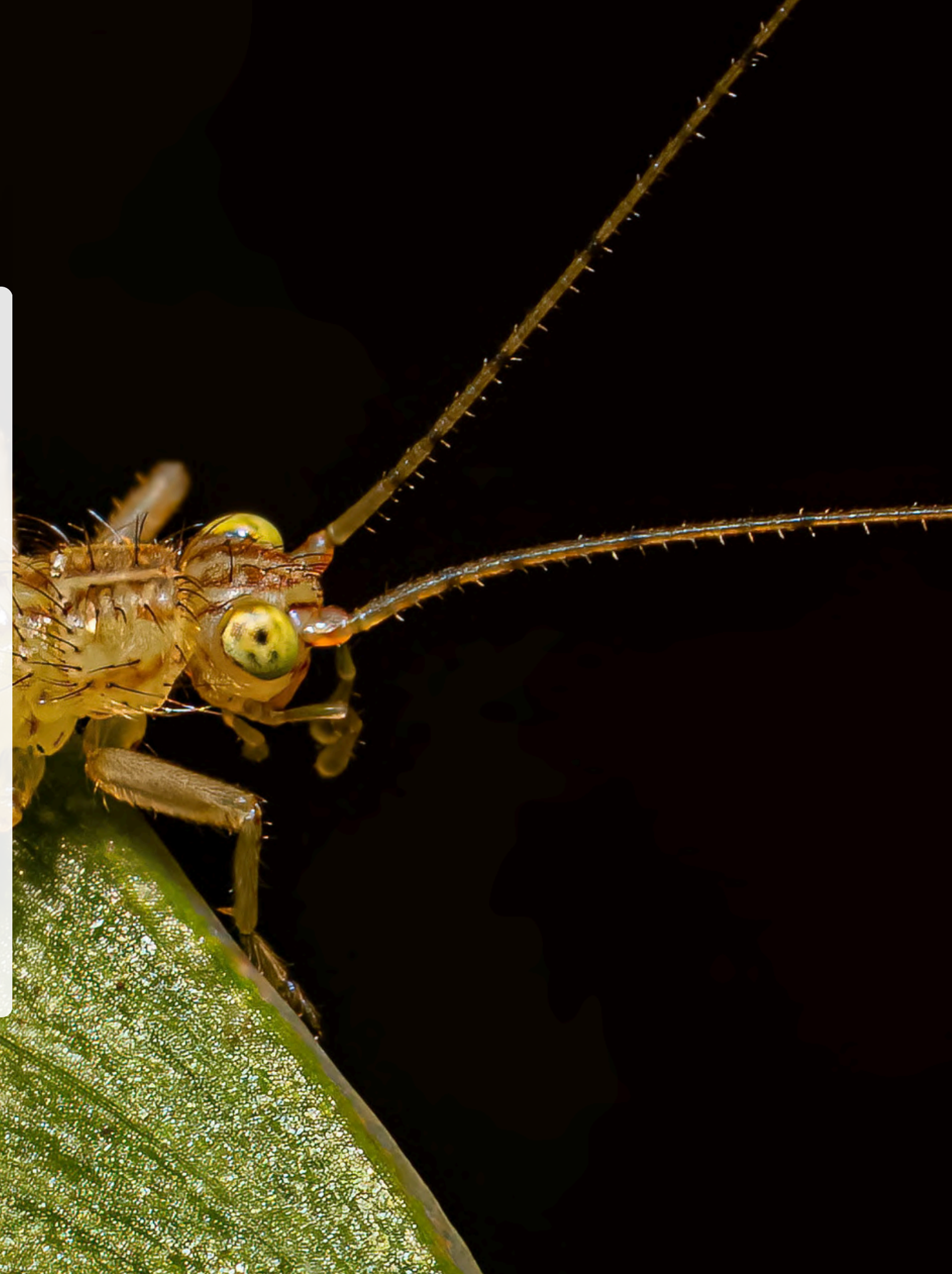


## KEEPING SAFE

Crickets use many strategies to stay safe. Their colors help them blend into dirt, grass, and leaves. They leap quickly to escape danger. Some crickets hide in burrows or under objects. Their sensitive antennae also help them feel movement around them.

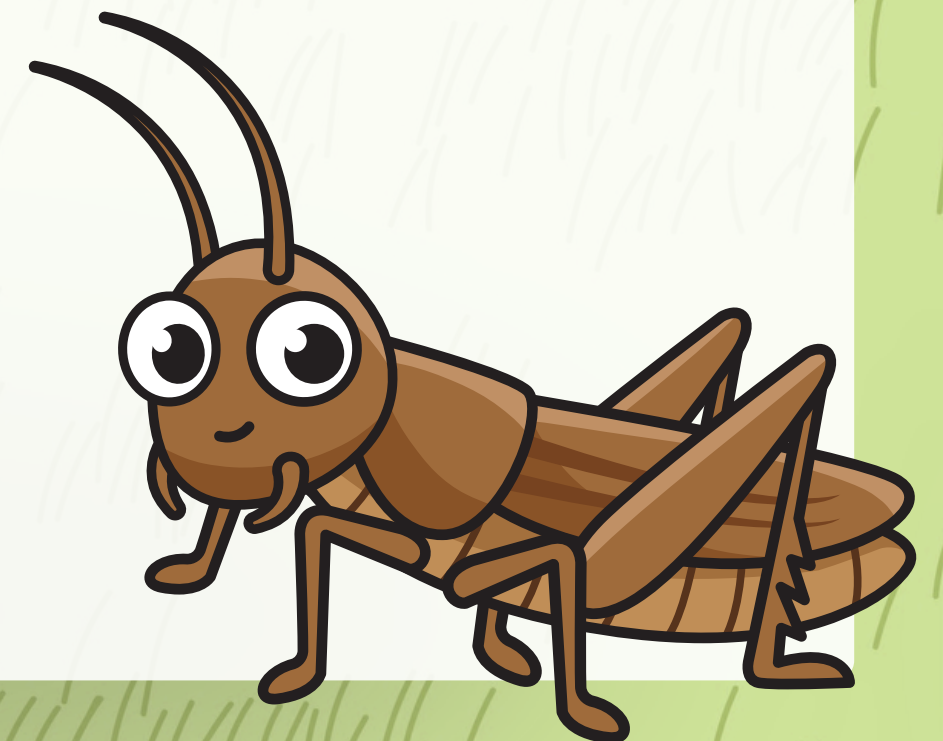
## DID YOU KNOW?

- Crickets hear with ears located on their front legs.
- A cricket's chirp can tell you the temperature—crickets chirp faster when it's warm.
- Crickets have been part of stories and symbols of good luck in many cultures.

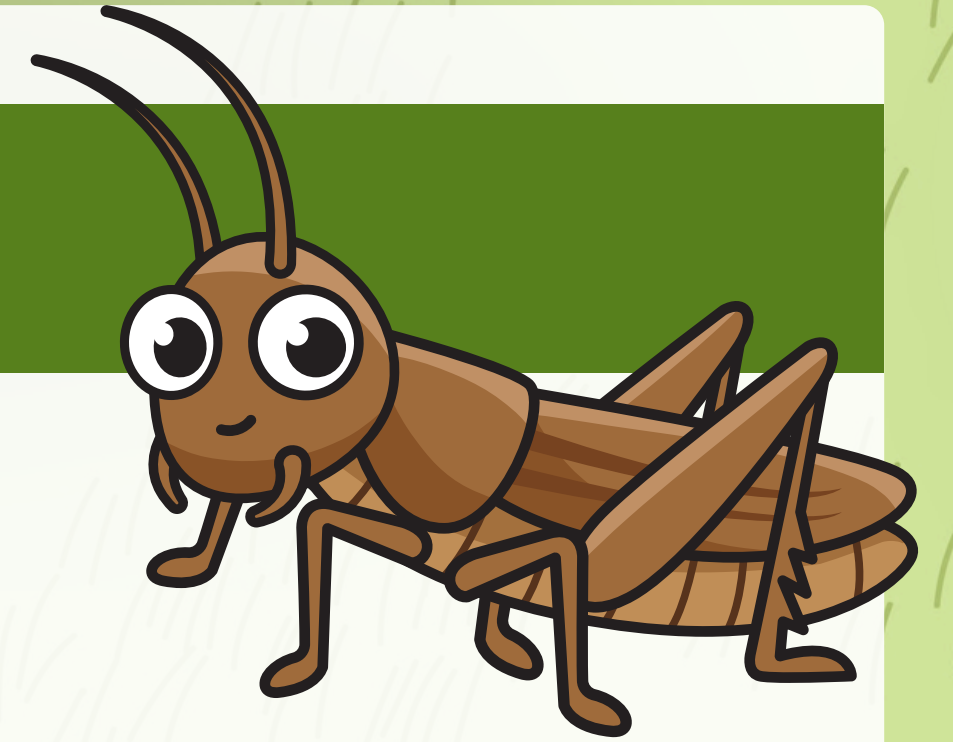


# QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Crickets are insects.
2. (True or False) Female crickets chirp loudly at night.
3. (True or False) Crickets grow in three stages.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Crickets have long antennae.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Crickets make the best music in nature.
6. What do crickets eat?
7. Where do crickets lay their eggs?
8. How do male crickets make sound?
9. What helps crickets stay safe?
10. Why are crickets important in nature?



# ANSWERS



1. True. Crickets are insects.
2. False. Only male crickets chirp.
3. True. They grow from egg to nymph to adult.
4. Fact. Crickets do have long antennae.
5. Opinion. "Crickets make the best music in nature." is a personal belief.
6. They eat leaves, seeds, fruit, and small insects.
7. They lay their eggs in soil or sand.
8. Males chirp by rubbing their wings together.
9. They use camouflage, quick jumps, burrows, and stillness to stay safe.
10. Crickets help clean the environment and provide food for other animals.

# GLOSSARY



**Antennae** - long feelers a cricket uses to sense the world

**Burrow** - a small hole or tunnel where an animal hides

**Cricket** - a small insect that makes chirping sounds

**Environment** - the place where plants and animals live

**Molt** - to shed an old outer skin as an animal grows

**Nibble** - to take small bites of food

**Nymph** - a young cricket that looks like a tiny adult

**Omnivore** - an animal that eats plants and animals

**Rhythm** - a pattern of sounds made again and again

**Springy** - able to jump or bounce easily

**Stridulation** - the sound a cricket makes by rubbing its wings together



## FUN WITH CRICKETS

*Q: What happens when crickets tell jokes?*

*A: ...crickets!*