



ALL ABOUT
GRASSHOPPERS

Hop, leap, and listen to the music of nature's famous jumpers!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE GRASSHOPPERS!

Boing! A tiny green insect launches itself into the air—it's a grasshopper!

Grasshoppers are fast-moving insects that live in grassy places all around the world. They are known for their powerful legs, quick jumps, and the buzzing sounds they make in summer fields.





WHAT GRASSHOPPERS ARE LIKE

Grasshoppers have six legs, two antennae, and wings for flying short distances. Their back legs are long and strong, making them excellent jumpers. They have chewing mouthparts for **munching** leaves and stems.



WHERE GRASSHOPPERS LIVE

Grasshoppers live in **meadows**, forests, **prairies**, farms, and even deserts. They prefer places with tall grass or leafy plants to hide in and eat. Some **species** live in mountains, while others thrive in warm **tropical** areas. Grasshoppers live on every continent except Antarctica.

FROM EGG TO GRASSHOPPER

Grasshoppers grow in three main stages. The mother lays her eggs in soil or plant stems. When the eggs hatch, tiny **nymphs** emerge that look like tiny grasshoppers without wings. As they grow, they molt several times until finally becoming adults with wings. This simple process is called **incomplete metamorphosis**.



HOW GRASSHOPPERS COMMUNICATE

Grasshoppers communicate mostly through sound. Many males rub their legs against their wings to make chirping noises, a behavior called **stridulation**. These sounds help them attract mates or warn others. Some **species** also rub their wings together to send messages.



WHAT GRASSHOPPERS EAT

Grasshoppers are mostly plant eaters. They munch on grass, leaves, flowers, and crops, using their strong jaws to chew tough plants. Some species also eat seeds, and a few may sometimes snack on small insects.





LIFE ON THE MEADOW

Grasshoppers stay active in sunny, grassy places. They leap quickly to escape danger and use sunlight to warm their bodies. They can fly short distances to reach new plants.



KEEPING SAFE

Grasshoppers use clever tricks to stay safe. Their colors help them blend into grass and leaves. They can leap far and fast when danger is near, and some species can fly away. A few types have bright warning colors to show **predators** they might taste bad.

A close-up photograph of a large green grasshopper perched on a leaf. The grasshopper is facing right, with its long antennae and legs clearly visible. Its body is a vibrant green with some darker spots. In the background, another smaller grasshopper is visible on a different leaf, slightly out of focus. The overall scene is set in a lush green environment.

DID YOU KNOW?

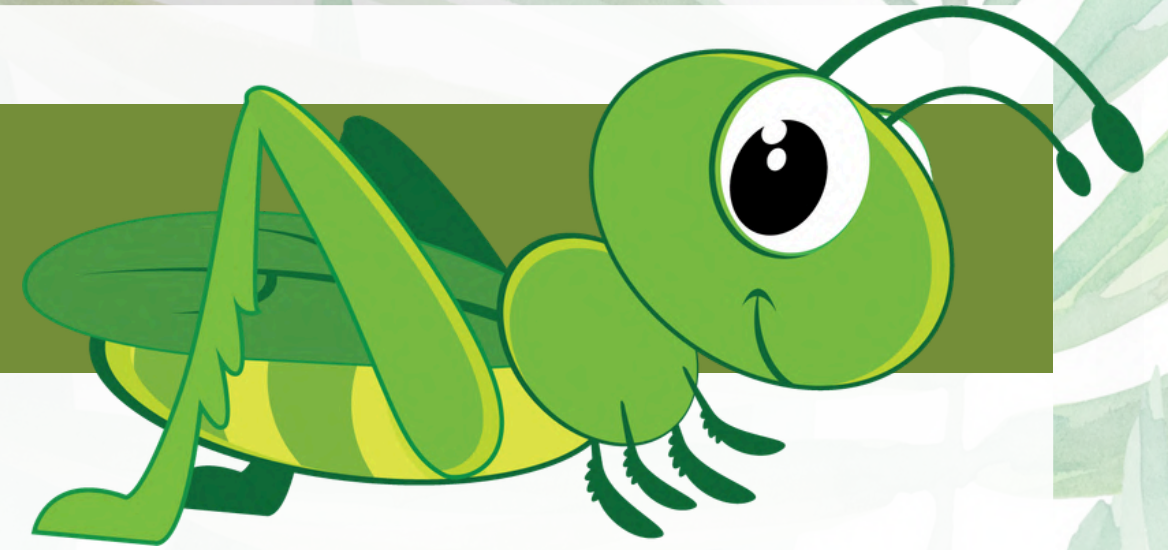
- Grasshoppers can jump up to 20 times their body length.
- There are more than 11,000 species of grasshoppers.
- Grasshoppers have lived on Earth for over 250 million years.

QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Grasshoppers are insects.
2. (True or False) Grasshoppers go through complete **metamorphosis**.
3. (True or False) Grasshoppers can make sounds by rubbing body parts together.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Grasshoppers have strong back legs.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Grasshoppers are the most fun insects to watch.
6. What do grasshoppers eat?
7. What helps grasshoppers jump so well?
8. Where do female grasshoppers lay their eggs?
9. What is a nymph?
10. How do grasshoppers stay safe?



ANSWERS



1. True. Grasshoppers are insects.
2. False. They go through incomplete metamorphosis.
3. True. They make sounds through stridulation.
4. Fact. Grasshoppers really do have powerful back legs.
5. Opinion. "Grasshoppers are the most fun insects to watch" is a personal view.
6. They eat grass, leaves, flowers, and other plants.
7. Their long, strong back legs help them jump far.
8. They lay their eggs in soil or plant stems.
9. A nymph is a young grasshopper that looks like a small adult without wings.
10. They leap far and fast when danger is near, and some species can fly away.

GLOSSARY

Camouflage – colors or patterns that help an animal blend in and stay hidden

Herbivore – an animal that eats plants

Predator – an animal that hunts and eats other animals

Species – a group of animals or plants that are the same kind

Metamorphosis – a process of change in an animal's body as it grows

Incomplete metamorphosis – a life cycle with three stages: egg, nymph, and adult

Nymph – the young stage of an insect that looks like a small adult but cannot yet fly

Stridulation – a sound made when an insect rubs body parts together

Munching – chewing food in a noisy or playful way

Meadow – an open area with grass and flowers

Prairie – a wide, flat grassland with very few trees

Tropical – warm areas of the world near the equator that often get lots of rain



FUN WITH GRASSHOPPERS

Q: Why was the grasshopper always picked first for the basketball team?

A: Because it had an unbe-leaf-able jump!