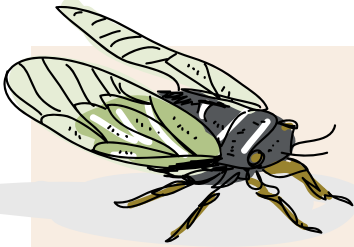


ARIZONA'S CICADAS

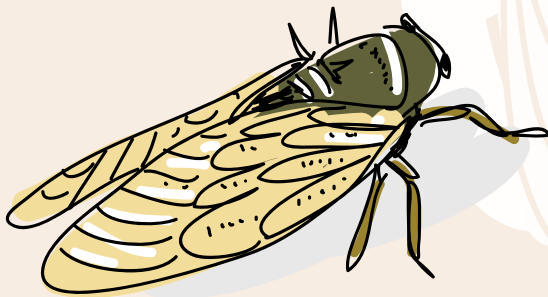
Did you know that Arizona is home to dozens of varieties of cicadas?



Cicadas are a massive super-family of insects with 3,000 different species—and scientists think there are hundreds more species out there to classify! There are two important types of cicadas: annual and periodic cicadas. While annual cicadas may stay in their nymph (adolescent) state for 1-9 years, they do not synchronize their emergence so new cicadas emerge every year. Periodic cicadas, however, do synchronize their emerging, so every 10-17 years depending on the species, large groups (broods) of cicadas emerge at the same time. In the Northeastern United States, Brood X emerged during the summer of 2021. In Arizona, annual cicadas are more common. Cicadas can look scary, but they don't bite or sting. They are an important source of food to many of the desert's animals, including humans!

While cicadas can come in many different colors and sizes, they are known for three things: their wings, their prominent eyes, and their songs. Cicadas sing to find a mate. Groups of cicadas can be incredibly loud. Some people compare their songs to the sound of an airplane taking off! In Arizona, the cicada's song is a sign that the monsoon rains will soon come.

Because cicadas are everywhere, they appear in traditional stories, myths, and folklore from all around the globe—and Arizona is no exception. Cicadas call in the summer rains, and are seen as important symbols of resurrection or rebirth. Some of the earliest depictions of cicadas are from the Hohokam and date back thousands of years! In Hopi traditions, there is a cicada kachina which is used in a springtime ceremony to welcome summer. It is thought that the Kokopelli also is a depiction of a cicada. Cicadas are also an important part of the Diné creation story. In addition to their spiritual significance, cicadas also aerate the soil and help prune trees.



As the summer temperatures heat up and we await the arrival of Arizona's summer cicada sounds, think about it: what does the sound of a cicada mean to you? Does the way we understand a sound change over time?



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ARIZONA'S SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Everyone knows it's summertime in Arizona when the cicadas come out and the rain pounds on the ground. Make these noisemakers to celebrate the sounds of summer!

Cicada Noisemaker

Create a sandwich noisemaker that sounds just like a cicada!

YOU WILL NEED

- Two jumbo craft sticks
- One wide rubber band
- Two narrow rubber bands
- One plastic straw
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS

1. Stretch the wide rubber band lengthwise (horizontally) over one of the jumbo craft sticks
2. Cut two 1-inch pieces off of the straw
3. Put one of the straw pieces under the rubber band on the craft stick, about 1/2 inch from the end. Lay the other straw piece on top of the rubber band, 1/2 inch from other end.



TOP VIEW

4. Sandwich the straw pieces on the craft stick with the other jumbo craft stick and use a narrow rubber band at each end to hold the ends together. The two ends should be pinched together, with a small space between the two craft sticks in the middle.



SIDE VIEW

HOW TO PLAY

Put your mouth on the middle of the sticks and blow! Don't blow through the straws! Doesn't sound quite right? Try moving the straws closer or farther together to change the pitch.

Monsoon Rainmaker

Make the rainmaker to bring on the monsoon! Can you make it sound like it's pouring rain? How about a gentle sprinkle?

YOU WILL NEED

- Cardboard tube, like one from paper towels
- Two paper circles, bigger than the tube opening
- Plastic beads, rice, beans, corn, lentils
- A large piece of aluminum foil
- Tape



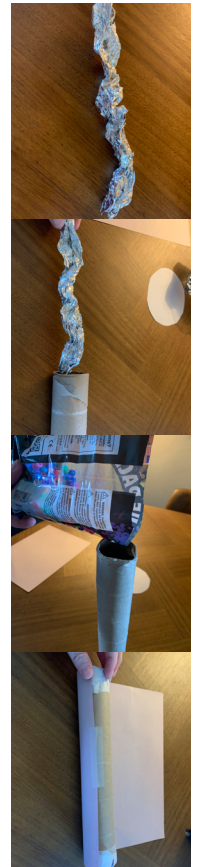
OPTIONAL: Decorate your tube! Use blank paper, colored pencils, markers, stickers

DIRECTIONS

1. Using one of the open ends of the tube, trace the opening onto one of the paper circles, trying your best to center it. Cut four slits into each of the paper circles from the outside edge to the line you just drew. Tape the circle over one of the ends, making sure that the end is as sealed as possible!
2. Take a large sheet of foil that is about three times as long as your tube. Shape the foil into a snake and then fold the snake to create kinks and corners. This will slow the filling down so that it sounds more like rain! Stuff the foil snake into the tube, making sure that you don't stop up the tube.
3. Add your filling until the tube is about 1/4 to 1/3 full.
4. Carefully, repeat step one to seal the other end.

HOW TO PLAY

Gently tip the tube back and forth to make the rain sound! The steepness of the angle changes how fast the "rain" falls!



ARIZONA
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