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## The Cicada Question

### *Why do cicadas have shells?*

In this episode we discover that baby cicadas have shells to protect their soft bodies and delicate wings as they grow underground. The shell also covers their claws which makes it easier for these insects to dig tunnels and find food.

### Wonder some more ...

1. How many years do Cicadas stay underground?
2. During which season do Cicadas hatch from their shell?
3. What is a Cicada shell called?
4. What colours are different Cicada species?
5. Where do Cicadas lay eggs?
6. How do Cicadas make their loud 'calling song' sounds?



### Time to explore...

- **DRAW:** Together, collect Cicada shells from tree trunks and notice which trees they prefer. Provide opportunities for children to sort the shells by size. Invite children to use a magnifying glass to observe its exoskeleton and identify body parts (wide eyes, antennae, legs, claws, mouth, body). Encourage children to draw a Cicada and scaffold literacy learning by 'scribing/labelling' their drawings.
- **INVESTIGATE:** Watch nature videos of Cicadas emerging from underground during late spring/ early summer in Australia. Talk about different seasons and how Cicadas live underground during the cooler months. Look at factual picture books together and discuss insect life cycles and the metamorphosis of a Cicada (eggs → 'nymph' → molt shell → adult).



*Willow*

### Read and wonder...

- *'Searching for Cicadas'* (2019) by Lesley Gibbs & Judy Watson
- *'Cicada's Song'* (2021) by Ariane O'pry Trammell
- *'Sing me the Summer'* (2020) by Jane Godwin & Alison Lester

**Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 5.2.**



Early Education