

Flies and Cicadas

Big World of Insects, Spiders & Bugs Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Biology

Synopsis: Two different insects are explored in this program. Young flies are seen emerging from their cocoons and then foraging for nectar. Many different fly species are shown. The remarkable camouflage of the cicada is seen and their loud call is heard. Students will come to understand how cicadas can make such loud sounds and why.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to describe some of the different species of flies.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to describe the life cycle of both flies and cicadas.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe how and why cicadas communicate.

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Transition, cocoon, emerge, grub, maggot, prudent, predator, pollen, nectar, proboscis, parasite, larva, maiden flight, fragile, agile, prey, camouflage, cacophonous, incessant, ovipositor

Pre-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Why is good camouflage important for some insects? Can you name some insects that have good camouflage?
- 2) Why are some insects considered pests?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe baby flies. How do they move? What do they look like?
- 2) How are the baby flies able to free themselves from their cocoons?
- 3) How long does it take for a fly's wings to develop?
- 4) What insects are 'cousins' of flies?
- 5) What do flies eat?
- 6) How many species of flies are there? Describe some of the different species shown in this program. How do the species differ?
- 7) What is a proboscis? Describe the fly's mouthparts.

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- 8) What creatures are predators of flies?
- 9) Describe the bee fly. What is the connection between this fly and a bee? Where does the bee fly lay its eggs?
- 10) Describe the cicada. Why is this insect called a 'late riser'? How long does the larva live underground?
- 11) How is the cicada able to avoid predators?
- 12) How do cicadas communicate? What are the cicadas communicating to each other?
- 13) Where do female cicadas lay their eggs? What is an ovipositor? How is this organ used?
- 14) Describe the cicada life cycle.

Additional Activities:

- 1) Create a chart or table that compares and contrasts these two insects. Include in the chart sections on how the insect moves, communicates, what it eats, how it communicates, etc.
- 2) Several different species of flies are shown in this program. Choose 2-5 different species of flies and find out more about them. Where do they live? Compare and contrast the different species.
- 3) Research the life cycles of flies and cicadas. Create a series of illustrations for each life cycle.
- 4) Draw close up pictures of each insect. On each, label the head, thorax, abdomen, six legs and wings. Be sure to color the insects appropriately. Also include a drawing of the insect in its appropriate environment.

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