Grasshoppers and Crickets

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PM

Grasshoppers and Crickets

Level 22

Running Words 735 **Text Type** Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences); Humanities (Geography)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

1 How do grasshoppers and crickets make sounds?
2 What is 'metamorphosis'?
3 Why do some grasshoppers eat poisonous plants?

Inferential

4 Why do grasshoppers and crickets need to be able to see moving things?
5 Why do grasshoppers need to hide from birds and other animals?
6 Why do crickets stay in burrows or logs and under leaf litter during the day?
7 How might the shape of a katydid's body help to keep it safe from predators?
8 Why would the Jerusalem cricket's hissing sound scare away a predator?

Applied Knowledge

9 Why do locusts sometimes fly in a swarm?
10 What are other foods people eat that are high in protein?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 22	Information Report	*Butterflies and Moths*
Level 22	Information Report	*Bees and Wasps*
Level 22	Information Report	*Flies and Mosquitoes*
Level 22	Information Report	*Bugs*
Level 22	Information Report	*Beetles*

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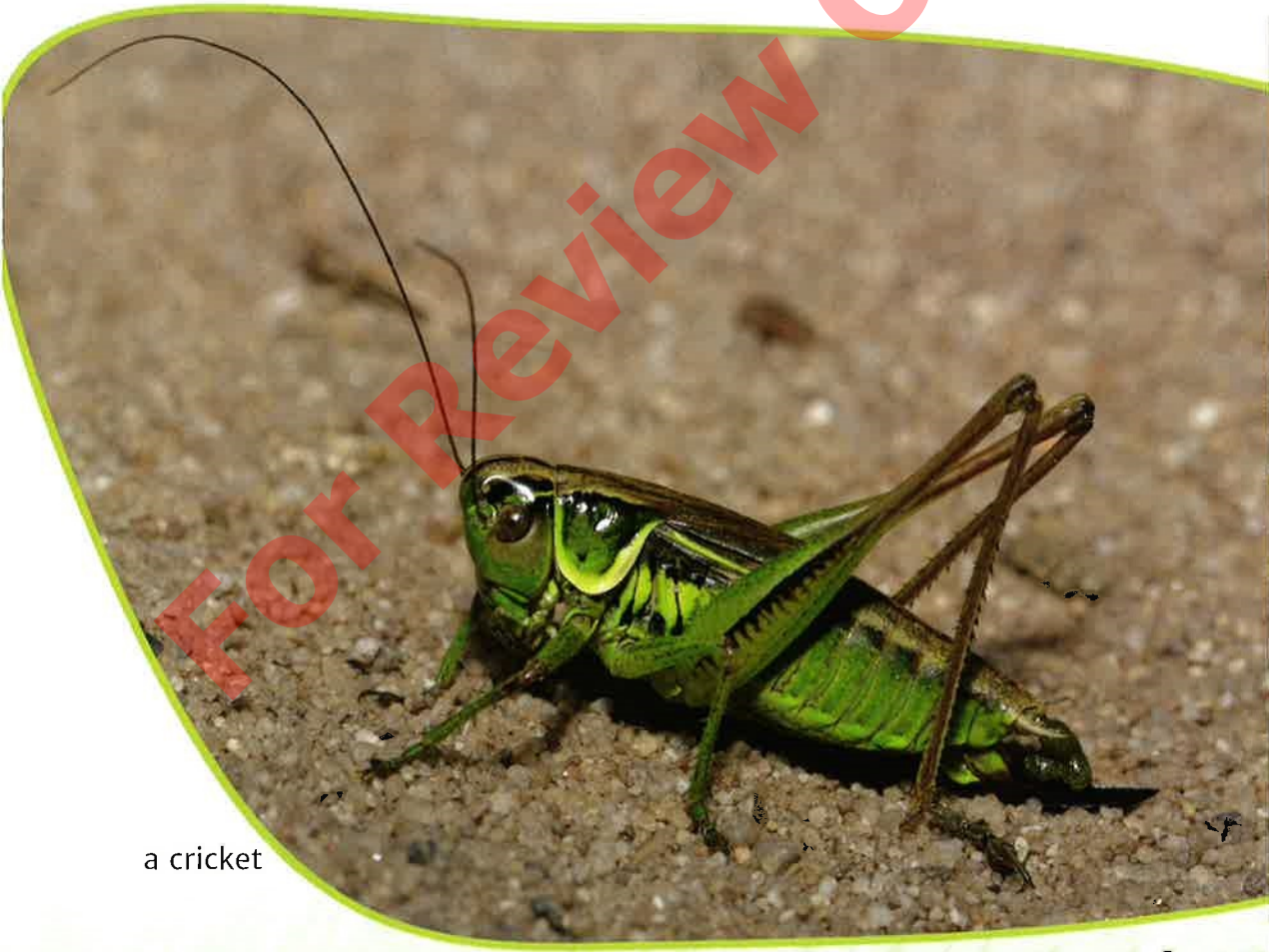
Contents

What Are Grasshoppers and Crickets?

Grasshoppers and crickets are insects.
Many grasshoppers and crickets can jump.
Some have wings and can fly.

Most grasshoppers and crickets
have large back legs,
which they use for jumping.
They can also make sounds
by rubbing together parts of their bodies.
This is known as singing, or chirping.



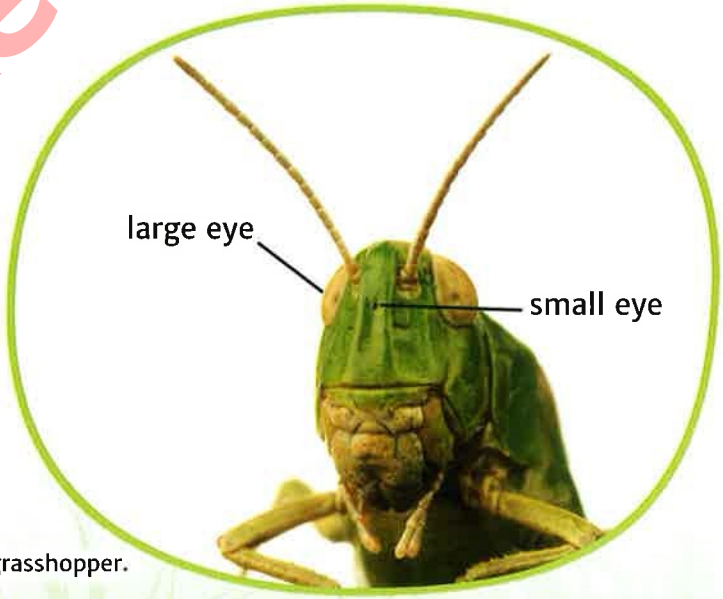
a cricket

Like all insects, grasshoppers and crickets have a head, a thorax and an abdomen. Most grasshoppers and crickets have two **antennae** (say: *an-ten-ee)*, four wings and six legs.

Grasshoppers and crickets have two large eyes, and three smaller eyes.

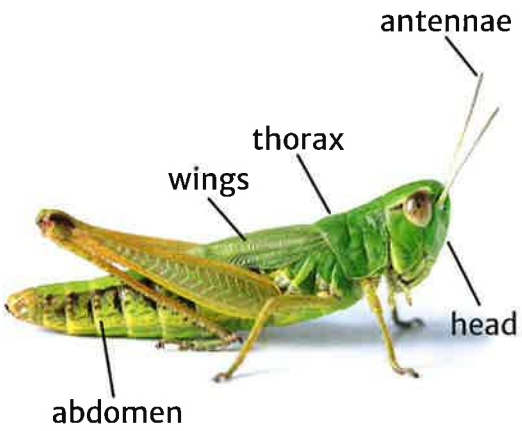
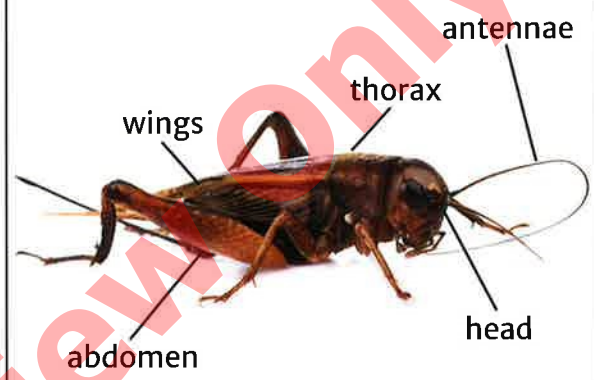
The two large eyes are **compound eyes**. Each compound eye has hundreds of tiny **lenses** inside it. The lenses help grasshoppers and crickets to see moving things.

The three small eyes help the insects to see light and dark.



This photo shows the head of a grasshopper.

Differences Between Grasshoppers and Crickets

Grasshoppers	Crickets
	
short antennae	long antennae
hearing parts on the abdomen	hearing parts on the front legs
active mostly during the day	active mostly during the night
plant eaters	plant and meat eaters
They rub their back legs with their front wings to make a sound.	They rub their front wings together to make a sound.

The Life Cycle of Grasshoppers and Crickets

The life cycle of a grasshopper and a cricket has three **stages**: egg, nymph and adult.

The eggs hatch into nymphs, which look like small adult insects without wings. Nymphs moult, or lose the outer covering on their bodies, many times as they grow to be adults.

This change from an egg to an adult is called metamorphosis (say: *met-a-mor-fa-sis*).

Birds, beetles, rodents, reptiles and spiders eat grasshoppers.

The Life Cycle of a Cricket