

# MAGICICADAS

Imagine an insect the size of a pinky, underground drinking sap out of a forest tree root with hundreds of others in the dark!

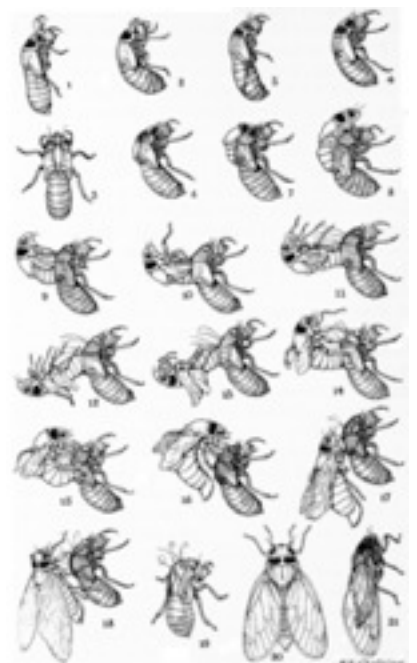
What are Magicicadas in general?

Magicicadas are insects in the Periodical Cicada family. They live underground for 17 years. Magicicadas do not sting or bite, but may mistake a person's arm for a tree or a plant and sting. The cicada makes a high-pitched noise, louder than a cricket. The sound can damage a human's ability to hear.



## Life Cycle

Magicicadas spend their lives growing underground; when they become adults they all emerge at once. Cicadas, which are not of the same family as the Magicicadas, leave underground at different times unlike Magicicadas, which emerge together. After Magicicadas emerge from underground they live for between a week and a month.



## Human Uses

Believe it or not Magi cicadas are used as food. They have been eaten a long time ago as well; people such as Native Americans would roast them until they were brown and then eat them. Magi cicadas are eaten all over the world.



## Loud Noises

Male Magi cicadas make a calling song to attract female Magi cicadas. It sounds like a buzzing noise.

If you are too close to a Magi cicada while they are singing it can damage your hearing.

## Survival

Magi cicadas' way of protecting themselves from predators is to gather in a large group as they travel. Their predators are squirrels, cats, birds and other large animals. They eat tiny insects and tiny living creatures that are smaller than them.