



# Cricket

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Katydids, mantids, locusts, cicadas,  
etc.

# Crickets and katydids

Crickets and katydids are members of the suborder Ensifera of Orthoptera insects that include true crickets, camel crickets, bush crickets, katydids, grigs, weta and Cooloola monsters.

The legs of katydids are very long, close to the front legs, and line up close to their bodies and their bodies are longer. Their wings tent.

Crickets' wings lie on top of each other, and their rear legs are not as long.

The songs of crickets and katydids are different.

The cerci at the ends of the abdomens are more prominent on crickets.

Katydids are green with green wings.

Crickets are generally smaller, cylindrical insects with flattened bodies often olive, brown or black.



# Locusts

Locusts are short-horned grasshoppers in the family Acrididae of the order Orthoptera that can swarm. Usually solitary, they can become more abundant and change their behavior. Locusts look the same as grasshoppers but have two possible phases—solitary or gregarious.



# Mantises

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Mantises are an order of insects of 2,400 species in about 460 genera in 33 families. Mantises are distributed worldwide in temperate and tropical habitats. They have triangular heads with bulging eyes supported on flexible necks. They have two spiked, grasping forelegs ("raptorial legs") to catch and hold prey items securely.



# Cicadas

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The cicadas are a superfamily, Cicadoidea in the order Hemiptera. They are in the suborder Auchenorrhyncha, along with smaller jumping bugs such as leafhoppers and froghoppers.

Cicadas are 1 - 1 1/2 inches long, stout with a green or brown body and black markings on the body, with four, clear, fly-like wings, first pair much longer than the abdomen, wings folded over their back like a tent.

The songs of cicadas are a succession of short pulses of sound, composed of a damped train of sound waves.

Periodical cicadas come in 13- or 17-year cycles. They do not swarm and are poor fliers. They are mostly harmless since they emerge to mate.



# Walking sticks

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Walking sticks are Phasmatodea, looking like a long, slender, cylindrical stick on 6 spindly legs and with 2 long, thin antennae. They are camouflaged to look like brown, tan, gray, or green twigs. They eat plants and their defecation enriches the soil. They are mainly nocturnal.



# Insect miscellanea to *Are You Sleeping*

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Ensifera, mantids,  
plasmids

They are all insects too,

Crickets, mantis and  
stick insects

Are all known, to me  
and you.



# An insect scavenger hunt

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Can you find--crickets, cicada molts, mantises or walking sticks?

You can make an insect with a clothespin and pipe cleaner.

And an insect snack with pretzel twists and sticks!





Learn  
about  
insect  
sounds!

Eric Carle

The Very Quiet Cricket

