



Time Needed for Activity

50 minutes

Materials Needed

Phone, tablet, or Chromebook (to be used as recording device)

Journal

Guide to acoustic calls of local species

Things to remember:

Wear sunscreen

Insect repellent

Check for ticks when you finish

Elon Explorers: Singing Insect Diversity

Today’s science activity: For this activity, we would like you to help us document which cicada species are common in Burlington, NC. We do not know this information! You will go into your yard, local park, etc., and listen for cicadas. You will get as close as you can to a cicada and record it on your device. Make sure to write down the name or number of the file when you finish recording! See the example data table below. You will record at least **three** different cicadas, and also give us the location (address) where you recorded each one.

After you finish recording three cicadas, use the information at the links below to try and identify the species in your recordings. Writing down whether the cicadas are high up in the trees or lower down will also be helpful: different species prefer different locations on trees.

Webpages with photos and recordings of cicadas of the southeastern U.S.:

Robinson’s cicada: <http://songsofinsects.com/cicadas/robinsons-cicada>

Linne’s cicada: <http://songsofinsects.com/cicadas/linnes-cicada>

Davis’ southeastern Dog-day cicada: <http://songsofinsects.com/cicadas/davis-southeastern-dog-day-cicada>

Lyric cicada: <http://songsofinsects.com/cicadas/lyric-cicada>

It’s important to finish this activity and upload or email recordings before 2:00 PM, so that Jen can review your recordings and check the identifications!

Helpful tips: Cicadas usually signal in the afternoon. You might want to do this activity at 12:00 or 1:00 pm. They can be found on trees, sometimes up high. They are loud! Just get as close as you can and point the microphone side of your device toward the sound. It will help if there is not much other noise (e.g. cars, people), but just do the best you can.

Example data table:

Time	Location	Environment	Recording #
12:00	Rendall Street	Big oak tree, high up	New Recording 47
12:15	Fairview Street	Tree, only halfway up	New Recording 48
12:25	Second Street	Tree, very high up	New Recording 49

Your job today is:

1. Go outside and listen for cicadas. Record five different cicadas. Fill in the table in your journal as you find them. **On the website**, Upload your data from your table. Upload your voice memo recordings.

2. After you do science, write in your journal. Write about what it says on the website. Then upload a photo of your journal page on the website.