

Chapter 20

ENRICHMENT

Use with Section 4

● Arthropods and Echinoderms

Crickets

A common arthropod of the insect class is the cricket, a small bug with antennae, wings, and powerful hind legs. The word *cricket* comes from a French word meaning “to click or creak.” Anyone who has had a cricket in the house has observed their noise-making abilities. Crickets can easily be found from spring through fall in fields and vacant lots. They can also be purchased at bait stores that sell fishing supplies or pet stores.

Materials

- wide-mouthed clear glass jar
- rubber band
- old nylon stocking
- scissors
- thermometer
- clock with second hand
- crickets

Procedure

1. Catch a cricket in a field or buy one from a pet or bait store.
2. Place the cricket in the jar. Cut a top for the jar from the old nylon stocking. Secure the cover with the rubber band.
3. Observe the cricket’s body parts and make a sketch of the arthropod. Label your sketch with these terms: head, thorax, abdomen.
4. Wait until the cricket is chirping regularly. While watching the second hand of the clock, count how many chirps the cricket makes in 15 seconds. Add 40 to the number of chirps you counted. Compare that sum to the temperature of the room.
5. Move the jar to a warmer place (near a sunny window, for example). Make your count again.

Observations

Draw your sketch here.

Conclude and Apply

1. How did the sum of the number of chirps compare with the temperature reading?

2. What happened to the number of chirps when you moved the jar to a warmer place?

3. How does temperature affect cricket activity?
