

## NEWS BREAK

Article: **The world hasn't seen cicadas like this since 1803**

Section: **MAIN, A6**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, January 21, 2024** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

***\*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

### Standards:

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1**

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2**

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### Objectives:

Students will learn about the rare, dual emergence of Cicadas-what happens, what people should expect and how they would feel living through this event.

### Pre-Reading Discussion:



What do you think the article will be about, using these pictures?

Are there any clues?  
What can you infer?

### **Vocabulary Building:**

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

A cicada from Brood X perches next to its **exoskeleton**.

### ***Exoskeleton Guess:***

### ***Exoskeleton Definition:***

### **Comprehension Questions:**

1. Two broods are set to appear this spring in a \_\_\_\_\_ that could see more than 1 trillion of the insects.
2. This spring, for the first time since \_\_\_\_\_, two cicada groups known as Brood XIX, or the Great Southern Brood, and Brood XIII, or the Northern Illinois Brood, are set to appear at the same time, in what is known as a dual emergence.
3. The last time the Northern Illinois Brood's 17-year cycle aligned with the Great Southern Brood's 13-year period, \_\_\_\_\_ was president.
4. After this spring, it'll be another \_\_\_\_\_ years before the broods, which are geographically adjacent, appear together again.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are "very important to the ecosystem" in the eastern half of the U.S.
6. Shockley said the dual emergence would most likely result in more than \_\_\_\_\_ cicadas appearing in the roughly 16-state area where the two broods are generally seen.
7. What areas will have higher numbers?
8. To put that into perspective, 1 trillion cicadas, each of which are just over an inch long, would cover \_\_\_\_\_ miles if they were laid end-to-end. "That cicada train would reach to the moon and back 33 times," he said.
9. In most cases, Shockley said, the cicadas live about how long?
10. What should people do with them, once they die?
11. They don't bite, sting or carry any diseases, and they serve as what?

### **Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- ***What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?***
- ***At first, I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_?***
- ***What things did you already know from prior experience?***

***While the prospect of the 1 trillion cicadas that the dual emergence is expected to bring might sound horrifying to some, Shockley emphasized the awe of this rare natural event. “Don’t be scared of it, embrace it for the wondrous event that it is and embrace the fact that it’s very temporary,” he said. “It will be intense, but short-lived.”***

- How do you think it would feel to live among this dual emergence?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.  
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