

Periodical cicadas: personal time capsules

Project: To find out how previous emergences have affected people.

Assignment: Using your smartphone to record people's recollections of past emergences. Ask your grandparents and other people who have lived in your area for a long time.

Questions to ask:

Have you ever experienced a previous emergence of the cicadas?

If yes, then what year was the emergence? How old were you?

Where were you living during the emergence?

What are some of the things you remember about cicadas?

Was the person's memory as to the year accurate? If not, how many years were they off? Note that this is a test of the accuracy of an oral history as it compares to printed information.

Brood XIV periodical cicadas emerged during the following years: 2008, 1991, 1974, 1957, 1940, 1923.