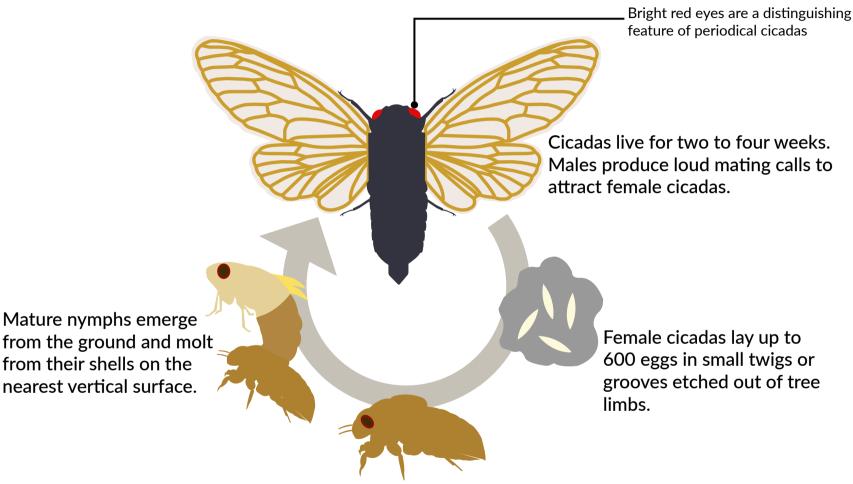
Life cycle of a cicada

Periodical cicadas spend most of their lives underground as nymphs before emerging after 13 or 17 years, depending on the brood. Annual cicadas, the kind we see every year, spend just two years underground as nymphs before emerging.



After hatching, nymphs tunnel 6 to 18 inches beneath the surface, surviving by feeding on sap from tree roots for two to 17 years, depending on the species.