

Activity 14: Chirp, Chirp

Crickets are found around buildings and in fields and meadows. Sometimes you'll find them by following their chirps. The speed (fast or slow) of their chirp depends on the temperature. You can collect crickets in the summer or do this activity anytime during the year if you buy crickets at a pet or bait store.



DO it **Cricket Observations** **Tool Kit**

- 3 to 5 Crickets
- Clear plastic container
- Sand, potatoes or carrots
- Water bottle and cotton ball
- Collect or purchase 3 to 5 crickets. Make sure you have at least one male, since females do not chirp. (The female cricket has a long ovipositor on the end of her abdomen.) To collect your own crickets, do it in late summer or early fall when

adult crickets appear. Use an insect net to gently capture crickets.

- Put a shallow layer of sand in the bottom of a small, clear container. Punch small holes in the lid of the container so the crickets can breathe.
- Place small pieces of potatoes or carrots in the container for the crickets to eat.
- Place a small bottle filled with water and a cotton ball plug so the crickets have water. Place the crickets in the container and secure the lid.
- Watch and listen to the crickets for five minutes, three times a day, for three days. Include day and night observations. Record what you see and hear.

Day	Time	Sounds (# chirps/minute)	Observations
1			
1			
1			
2			
2			
2			
3			
3			
3			

