

# Alien invaders?

- Use these pictures to write a short story. It can be fiction, science fiction, or non-fiction.
- Be prepared to share your story.



Cicadas spend most of their lives underground, emerging to call out to each other to mate and lay eggs. Different species have different calls. There are both annual and periodic cicadas that visit us in Illinois; they don't bite or sting, but when you first see them they can be startling! Large and with alien looks, they are a food source for birds, rodents, lizards, snakes and fish. Opossums, raccoons, dog and cats eat them also. This summer, just as I caught a glimpse of one on the ground, it leapt up and my dog grabbed it--crunch, crunch! Truth be told, humans eat them too. They're a good protein source. Beware if you have shellfish allergies, the FDA warns you not to eat them. Young children, people with gout, and pregnant or nursing mothers: you avoid them too, according to The Cleveland Clinic.

**Watch this NBC video:** <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/when-will-cicadas-emerge-in-illinois-some-could-already-see-the-return/2516481/>

**More info:** <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/are-cicadas-safe-to-eat/>

- Left image, first slide, author
- Right image, first slide, Jim Occi, <https://www.cicadamania.com/cicadas/>
- Green winged cicada on this page <https://www.cicadamania.com/cicadas/diceroprocta-vitripennis-say-1830-aka-green-winged-cicada/>

