

Lesson: Cricket Thermometer

Grade: Kdg.

Objectives:

Students will:

Observe nature and discover one of its mysteries

Learn how math is a part of the natural world

Relate this mystery to themselves and how they too are special

Materials: a chirping cricket; a small box to hold the cricket; the following website for teacher's use

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~genchem/0102/spring/6winn/cricket.html>, and the book Chirping Crickets by Melvin Berger

Presentation: Read the book Chirping Crickets to students. Explain that crickets have a special secret—they can give us an idea of what the temperature is.

Directions:

1. Have students get very quiet, so they can hear the cricket chirping.
2. When the chirping begins, count the number of chirps the cricket makes in a 13-second period and add 40. This should give you the temperature of the air.
3. Talk with students about what they've learned. Ask: Do you ever feel mysterious? Why? Do you feel like others do not know what's special about you? Do you want them to know?

Time: 30 minutes