

# The cricket

2020 / 2021



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## Action P 20 Breeding in the classroom

The pupils (4th and 5th grade) has begun in the start of 2021 a breeding of crickets in a terrarium. They prepared a food corner (food for fishes, fruits and vegetables pieces, a small water tank and a shelter (egg cartons).



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The pupils asked questions and they did research (on websites, books) to study this animal in the better way.

### 1 What are the characteristics of the cricket ?

The cricket is an invertebrate and an insect. It belongs to the gryllidae family.

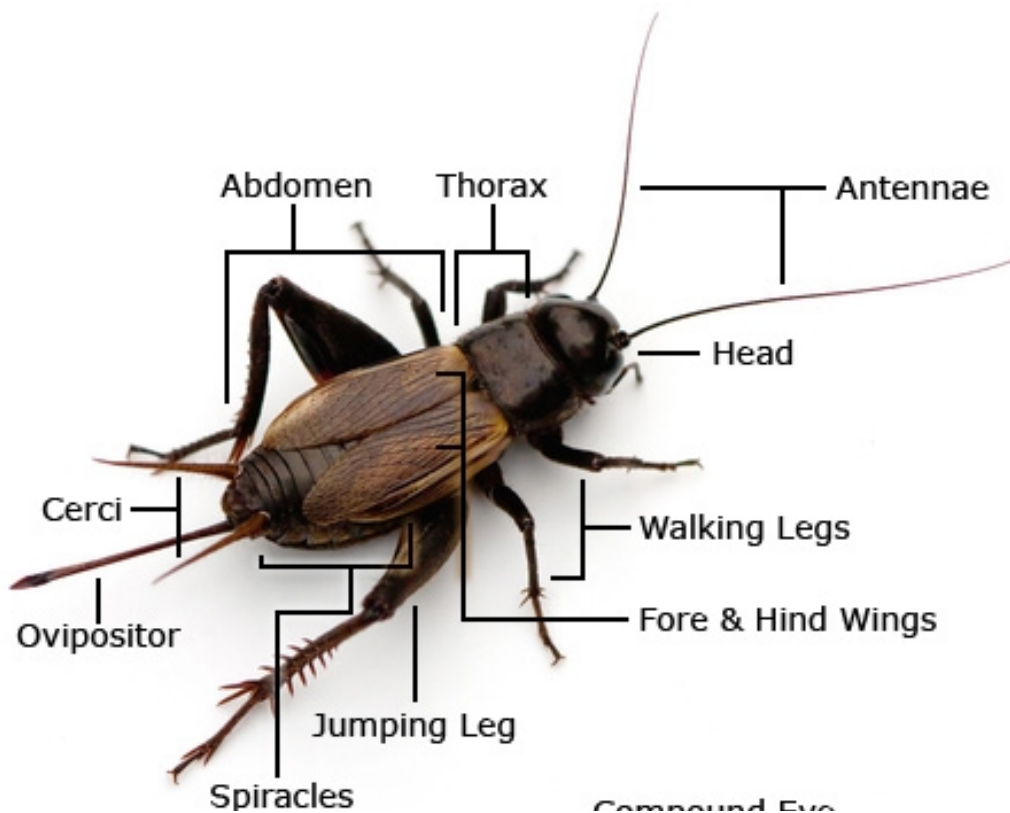
It is a close relative of the grasshopper.

It has a soft body covered by a carapace.

Its body is composed of 3 parts (head, thorax and abdomen) and it has long antennae.

It also has wings but this insect does not fly. It moves by jumping.

The male and female have a different anatomy.



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### 2 What does the cricket eat ?

Food must be varied for captive crickets : leaves of salad or cabbage, pieces of fruit or fresh vegetables, animal croquettes, fish flakes.

This insect is omnivorous.



a piece of carrot



some fish flakes

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### 3 How and why does the cricket sing ?

The insect is singing by rubbing its wings (elytra) against each other.

That move repetitive emits a strident sound,

The people say that the cricket is stridulous.

But, only males make this noise to attract females and to indicate their territory to the other males.

Here is a video about the sing of the cricket :

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHEYBP\\_06cM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHEYBP_06cM)



The sing of the cricket



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### 4 How does the cricket make babies?

The female has a special organ (the ovipositor or oviscapte ) which is used to drive the eggs into the ground during laying. The male has two cerques.

After the mating, the female lays her eggs in the soil and the larvae hatch after 2 – 3 weeks,

It is born white and it becomes colored after 24 hours.

Crickets will mature after 6-8 weeks.



The male



The female



Several crickets eggs

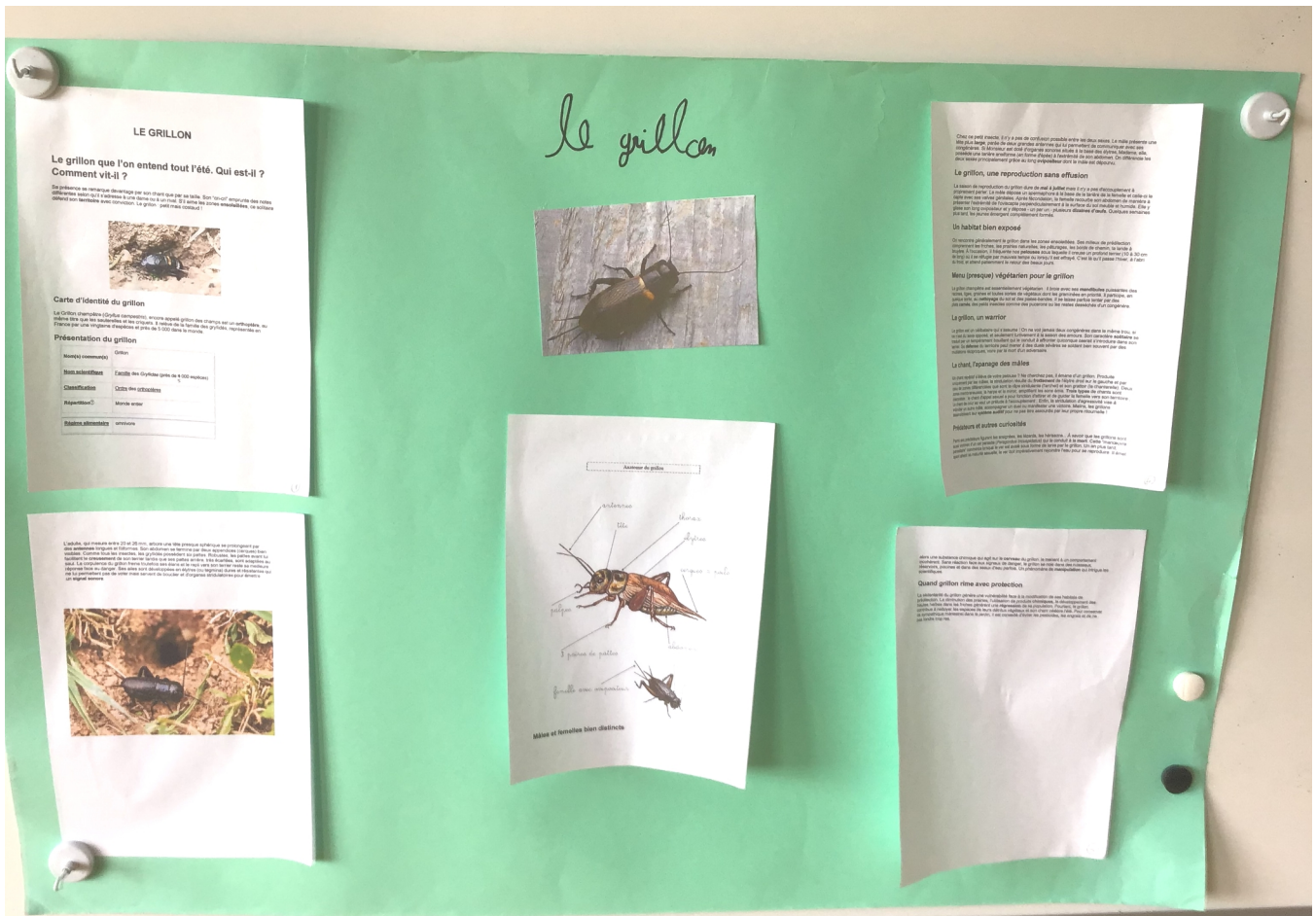


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# Action P 20 Breeding in the classroom

Here's a presentation by a pupil (Aymeric) on the cricket.



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