Have you heard of Brood IX (9)? Brood IX is a group of periodical cicadas – insects that appear only once every 17 years in southwestern Virginia. Last seen in 2003, these amazing insects will emerge from the soil this spring to make their 2020 debut. Then, after less than two months above ground, they will disappear into the soil for another 17 years.

Celebrate this unique event by creating a TIME CAPSULE!!

• Use this booklet to record facts about yourself, the world in 2020, and cicada Brood IX.
• Seal everything inside a shoe box or other container.
• Open your time capsule in 2037 when Brood IX emerges again and see how things have changed.

For more information visit: ento.vt.edu and hokiebugfest.org or Special thanks to WDBJ7!
**FUN FACTS**

**About You**

Name __________________________
Age/Grade _______________________
Height __________________________
Weight __________________________
Shoe size _________________________
Address ____________________________________________

Describe your room ______________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

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**FUN FACTS**

**About Brood IX**

**Common name:** Periodical cicada, Brood IX (includes 3 species)

**Scientific names:** *Magicicada septendecim*, *Magicicada cassini*, and *Magicicada septendecula*

**Age:** 17 years

**Height (length):** 1 to 1 ½ inches

**Address:** Southwestern VA and parts of WV and NC

**A cicada’s “room”:** Periodical cicadas spend most of their lives 18-24 inches deep in the soil near roots of woody plants.

Periodical cicadas are found only in eastern North America and can have either 13- or 17-year life cycles. Periodical cicadas that are in the same stage of development, and that emerge together in a given region during the same year, are known as a single “brood.” Each brood is designated by a Roman numeral. Brood IX, or brood 9, are the 17-year cicadas we see in southwestern Virginia.

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Did you know... Cicadas are white to cream colored when they shed their “exoskeletons”? They darken as they harden.
Food: When underground, cicadas suck nutrients from the roots of woody plants. This feeding does not commonly harm plants.

Family tradition: Every 17 years, when soils warm to 64°F or more, they emerge from the soil.

Form of communication: Males use special organs called "tymbals" to produce a loud sound to attract females. When many males “sing” together, the sound can exceed 100 decibels.

Activity: Shortly after coming above ground, females cut tiny slits in the stems of trees and woody shrubs where they will lay their eggs. When the eggs hatch, the immature cicadas, called “nymphs,” will burrow into the soil. After 17 years underground, the nymphs will emerge from the soil, shed their “exoskeletons” (outer shells) to become adults, and start the process anew.
Life in 2020

Price of:
Gallon of gas ___________
Gallon of milk ___________
Loaf of bread ___________
Stamp _________________

U.S. President _________________________
Current events ________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

What type of phone do you or your parents have?
_____________________________________

Fun things to add to your time capsule!

• Newspaper clippings
• Family photo
• Postage stamp

Live and in concert every night for the next several weeks, it's THE CICADAS!

I hear they are no longer an underground band.
Cicada Brood IX

Date they emerged ___________________
Location found ______________________
How many did you count? _______________
Did you hold one? ____________________
Did you find one with blue eyes? _________
Special memories _______________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

Fun things to add to your time capsule!

• Photos of the cicadas
• Photo of you holding a cicada
• Recording of the cicadas’ song
• Photo of a tree under which you found cicadas

Cicada Portrait

Did you know…
When a cicada emerges from the soil, it sheds its “exoskeleton” to change from a nymph to an adult? Cicadas leave these “shells” on vertical surfaces. How many can you collect?
PREDICTIONS

What do you think life will be like when Brood IX emerges again in 17 years!

What year will it be? __________  How old will you be? ____________

Where will you be living? ______________________________________

What job will you have? _________________________________________

Will you be married? ____________________________________________

Will you have children? _____  If so, how many? _________________

What new invention will there be? ________________________________

Draw yourself 17 years older

Write a letter to your future self