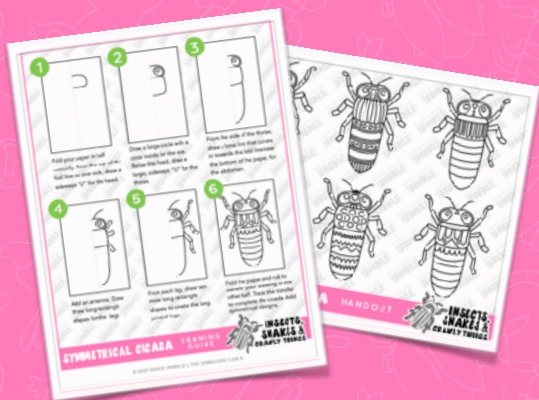




4



# SYMMETRICAL CICADA

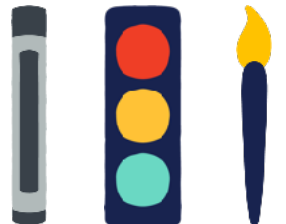


**Time Needed**  
2 Sessions at  
45 Minutes



**Topics Covered**  
Symmetry, Line  
& Texture

**What You'll Need**

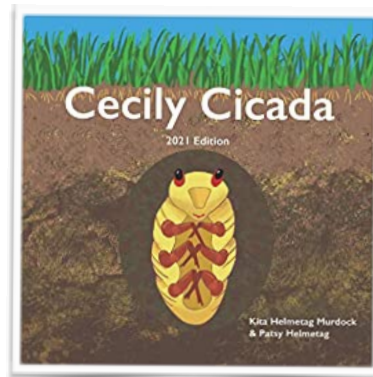




# SYMMETRICAL CICADA



These bright, symmetrical cicadas are created with a folded line of symmetry and your students' creativity. Students will learn about the different parts of insects as they draw and paint their cicadas. Textured wings made from wax paper give this art lesson another layer of interest and are the perfect finish to these bold bugs. Read *Cecily Cicada* by Kita Helmetag Murdock and Patsy Helmetag to learn more about the life cycle of the cicada.



## ABOUT CICADAS

**CICADAS** are a type of insect found worldwide and are known for their large size (most are one to two inches long) and loud "song." The cicada song is the loudest sound produced by any insect and is used for attracting mates as well as warding off bird predators. Cicadas are harmless to humans since they cannot bite or sting. Some cultures eat cooked cicadas as a source of protein. The lifecycle of a cicada includes multiple body transformations, from newly hatched nymphs to underground burrowers (this cycle lasts two to 17 years depending on the species) and then they emerge from the ground and molt into a

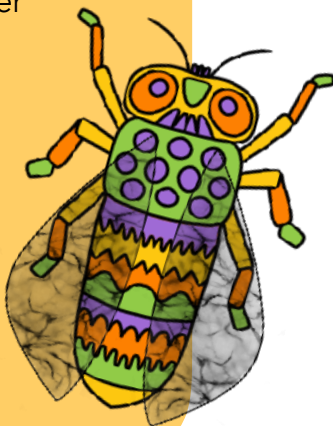
winged adult. Like all insects, a cicada has six legs and a body that has three parts:

**HEAD, THORAX** and **ABDOMEN**.

Click [here](#) to listen to the cicada's song.

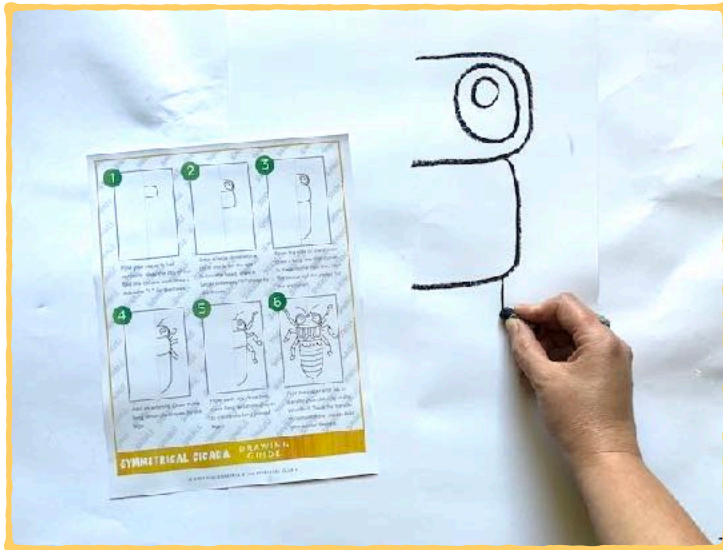
## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 12" x 18" white sulphite paper
- Black oil pastel
- Cake tempera or watercolor
- Medium round paintbrush
- Wax paper
- Black India ink
- Scissors & glue

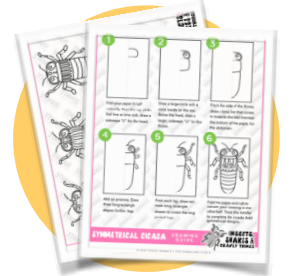


17 Year Cicada. Image from [HERE](#).

# DRAWING THE CICADA



- In order to make this cicada **SYMMETRICAL**, create a **LINE OF SYMMETRY** by folding a 12" x 18" white sulphite paper in half the tall way. The fold line is the line of symmetry.



Handouts on pages 6 & 7

- Using a black oil pastel and the drawing guide on page six, draw half of the cicada.

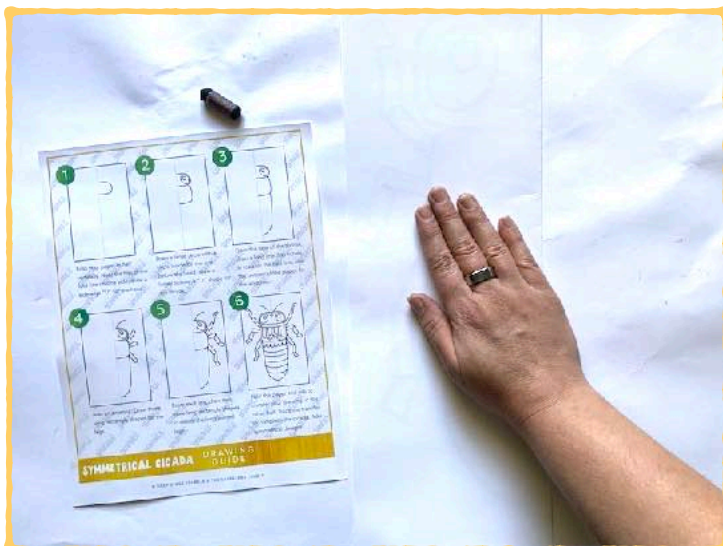


- Start by drawing the head, then thorax and finally the abdomen. Add three legs.

- Fold the paper and rub the back so that your drawing transfers to the other half.

- Open and trace the faint transfer drawing so that your cicada is symmetrical, or the same on both sides.

- Use the handout for ideas of **LINES** and **SHAPES** you could add to make your cicada both unique and symmetrical.



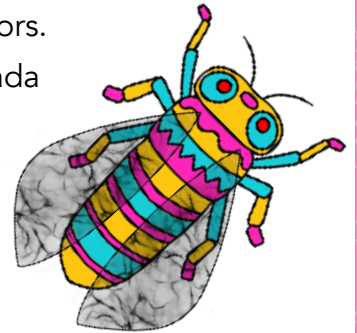


# PAINTING THE CICADA



- Paint the cicada using cake tempera or watercolor paints. In my example, I chose to use cake tempera paints.

- Don't worry about painting your cicada with realistic colors. Instead, make your cicada bright, bold and **UNREALISTIC** by using any colors you want.



- Remember that your cicada is symmetrical, so if you use a color on one side, make sure to use the same color in the same place on the other side.

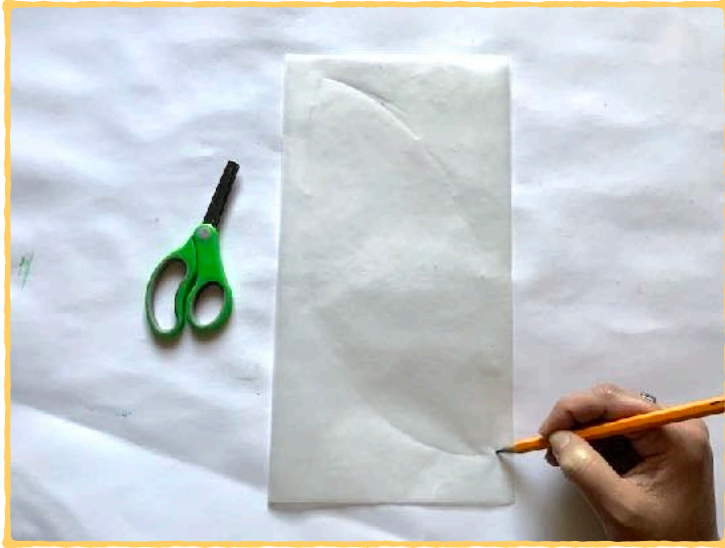
- Once your entire cicada is painted, move on to painting the **BACKGROUND**.

- You can paint your background however you like. I chose to paint my background with areas of yellow, green and blue. Then I went back over the background with the same colors but used short brushstrokes so that it has the **IMPLIED TEXTURE** of grass.





# ADDING WAX PAPER WINGS



- Your cicada is just missing one important part: wings. To create the look of wispy, light, textured wings, use wrinkled wax paper and India ink.

- First, fold a piece of wax paper in half so that you can draw and cut out two wings at once. I have used a 12" x 12" piece of wax paper in my example.

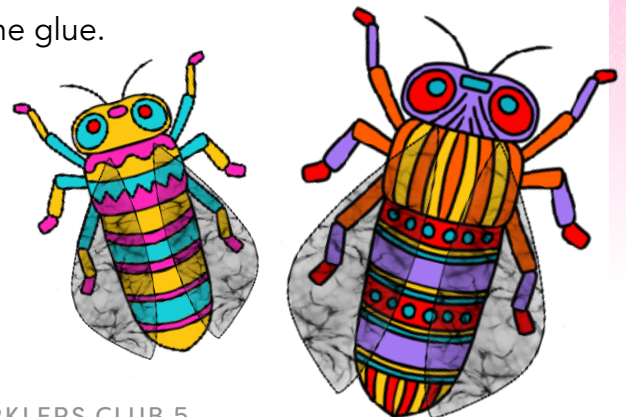
- Draw a large wing shape that fills the folded wax paper. It may help to think of the shape as almost leaf-like.

- Leaving the wax paper folded, cut out the wing. You should end up with two symmetrical wings.

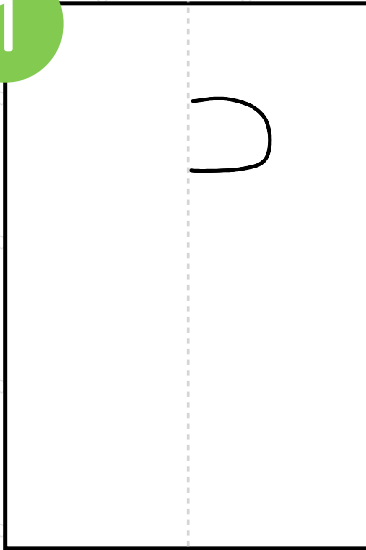
- Crumple each wing into a ball, open and smooth. You want a lot of cracks and wrinkles for the ink to sink into.

- Paint each wing with black India ink and immediately wipe off the excess ink with a paper towel or tissue.

- Squeeze two dots of glue on the cicada, just below the head on the upper part of the thorax and press the ends of the wings into the glue.

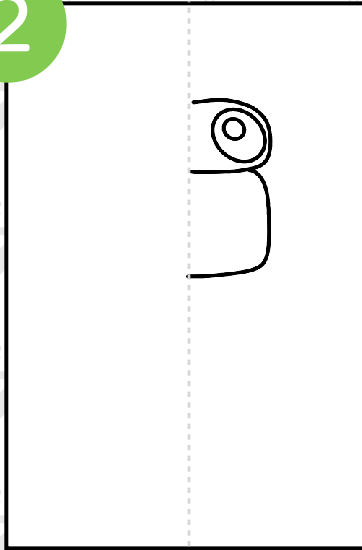


1



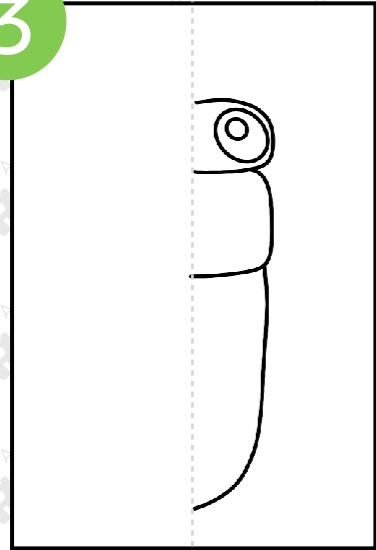
Fold your paper in half vertically. Near the top of the fold line on one side, draw a sideways "U" for the head.

2



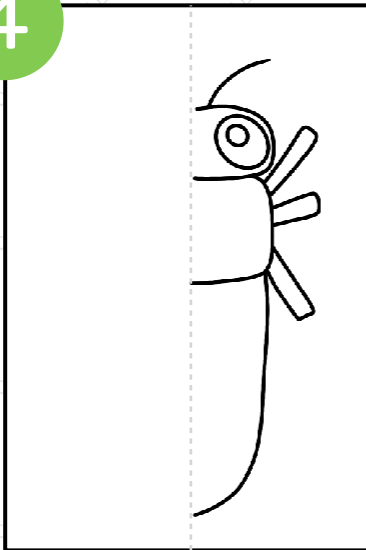
Draw a large circle with a circle inside for the eye. Below the head, draw a larger, sideways "U" for the thorax.

3



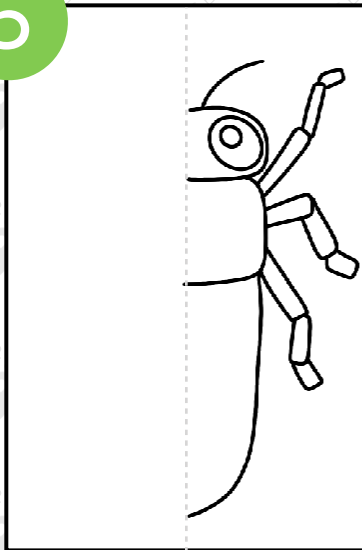
From the side of the thorax, draw a long line that curves in towards the fold line near the bottom of the paper, for the abdomen.

4



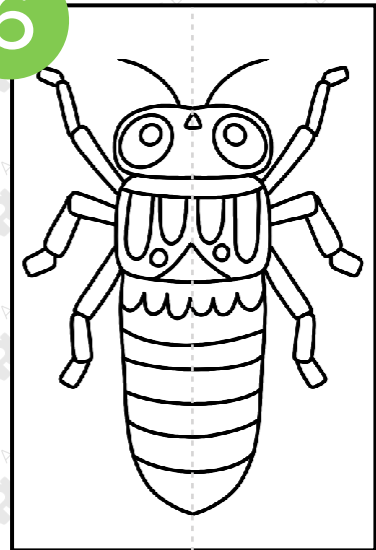
Add an antenna. Draw three long rectangle shapes for the legs.

5



From each leg, draw two more long rectangle shapes to create the long jointed legs.

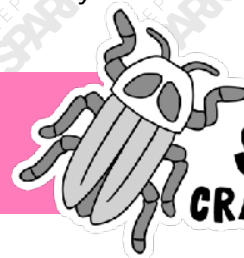
6



Fold the paper and rub to transfer your drawing to the other half. Trace the transfer to complete the cicada. Add symmetrical designs.

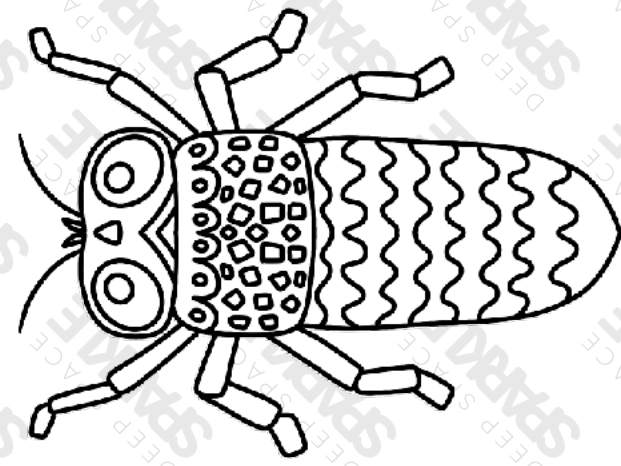
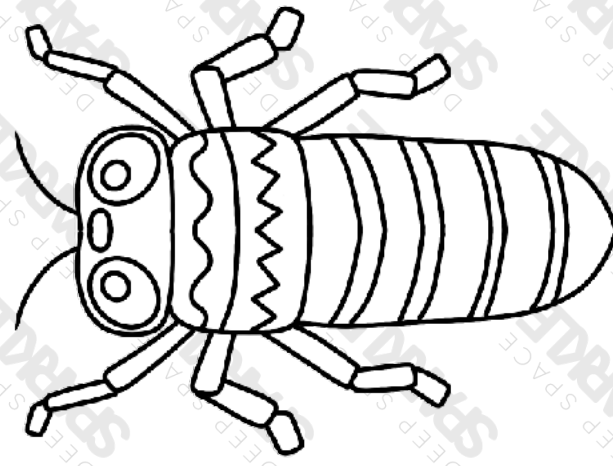
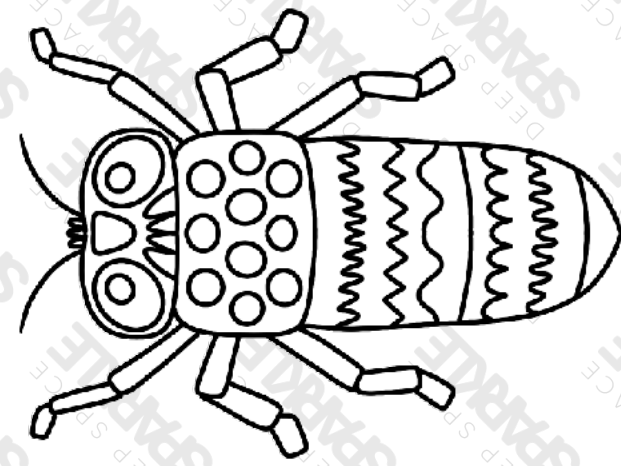
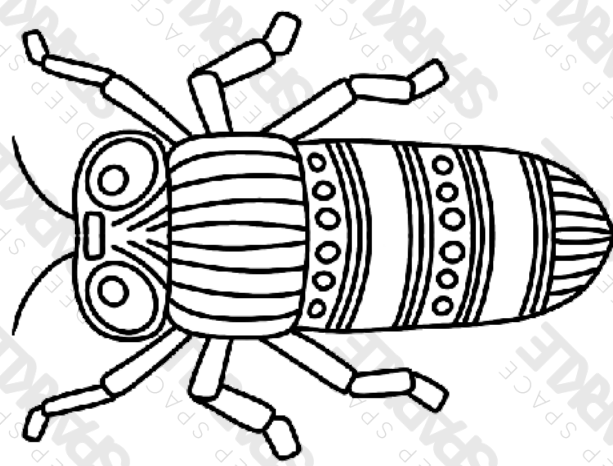
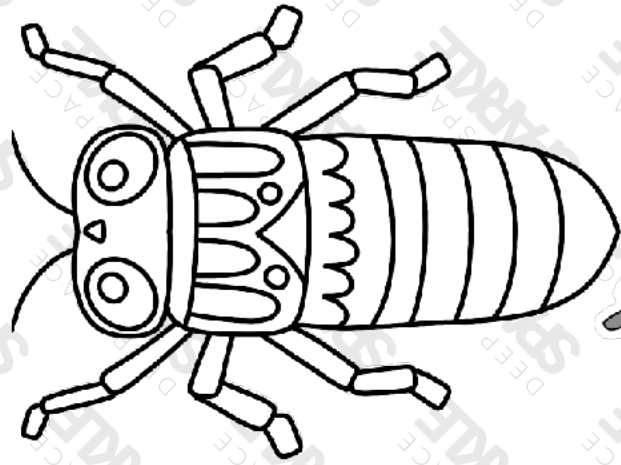
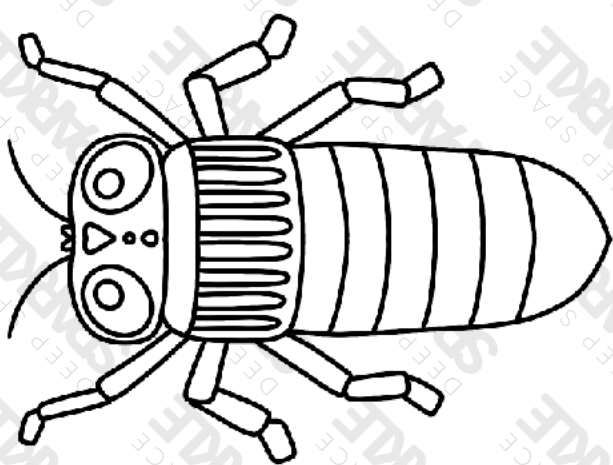
# SYMMETRICAL CICADA

## DRAWING GUIDE



**INSECTS,  
SNAKES &  
CRAWLY THINGS**





# National Core Arts Standards - 4th Grade

## SYMMETRICAL CICADA

### CREATING

**VA:Cr1.1.4a - Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work** - Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem.

**VA:Cr2.1.4a - Organize and develop artistic ideas and work** - Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.

### CONNECTING

**VA:Cn10.1.4a - Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art** - Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions.

## Common Core Standards

### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1

*Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.*

Read *Cecily Cicada* by Kita Helmatag Murdock and Patsy Helmetag before students start their artwork, and encourage them to refer to specific places in the text when answering questions about the story. Discuss the cicada lifecycle in order.

### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1

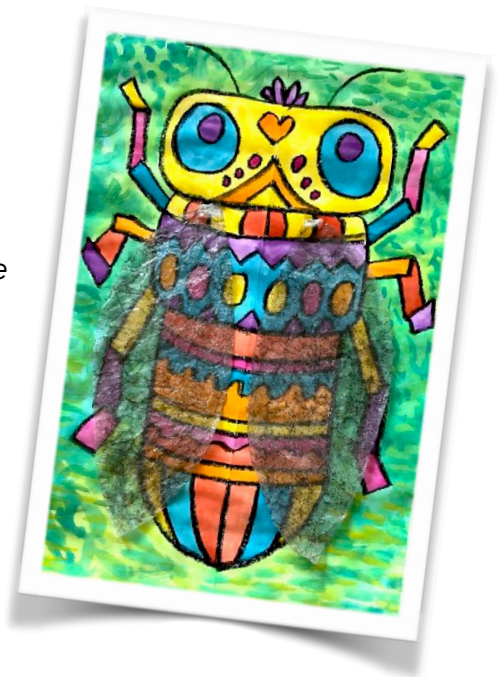
*Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.*

After students finish their art, you can have them fill out the artist statement worksheet (located in Teacher Aids). This information leads them to reflect on the process of art making while forming an opinion about their own work based on the processes used, materials used, inspirations, etc.

### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3

*Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.*

After students finish their art, you can have students name and write a narrative about their cicada and the various physical transformations in its lifecycle.





# I Can Statements

## SYMMETRICAL CICADA

- Today I will learn about **CICADAS** so that **I CAN** create a paper version of this unique insect that has a **HEAD, THORAX** and **ABDOMEN**.
- Today I will learn about **SYMMETRY** so that **I CAN** use **LINES** to draw a cicada that is the same on both sides.
- Today I will learn about **TEXTURE** so that **I CAN** cut and crumple wax paper to give my cicada realistic wings.



2-4

## TEACHER ASSESSMENT

2-4

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: Symmetrical Cicada

- ☐ Can the student tell me three facts about cicadas?
- ☐ Did the student use line to create cicada that is symmetrical?
- ☐ Did the student cut and crumple wax paper to create textured wings for their cicada?

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2-4

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT

2-4

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: Symmetrical Cicada

Time to evaluate your work! Review your project and check the box with your answer.

	Excellent	Successful	Progressing	Needs Work
<b>Criteria</b> Did you follow all steps?				
<b>Composition</b> Were you satisfied with the end result?				
<b>Craftsmanship</b> Did you use the supplies correctly?				
<b>Effort</b> Did you do your best?				

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**ABDOMEN**

**CICADA**

**HEAD**

**THORAX**

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**UNREALISTIC**

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