



Cricket Thermometer

By Philippa Werry

It's a warm summer day. The sun is shining down and the crickets are **chirping**. You'd like to know exactly how hot it is, but you don't have a thermometer.

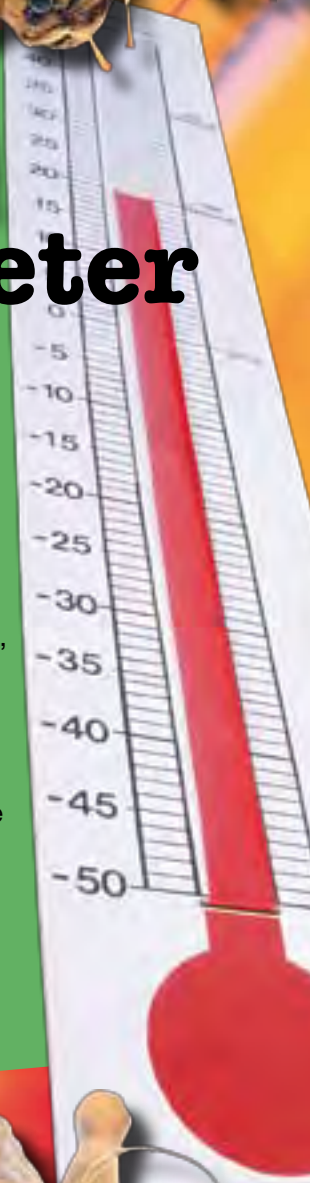
It's not a problem – if you have a watch.

To work out the “cricket temperature” in Fahrenheit, count the number of chirps or clicks a cricket makes in 15 seconds and then add 40.

For example, if a cricket chirps 28 times in 15 seconds (or 112 times in one minute), the temperature is

$$28 + 40 = 68^{\circ}\text{F}$$

The cricket temperature works best between 55°F and 71°F. Crickets are cold-blooded, so the warmer it is, the faster they chirp.



Asking Questions

Prior to reading: Read the title. Discuss with your learning partner(s) any questions this title raises in your mind.

Skim and scan the text. With your partner(s), write down a question you expect the author to answer. Finding the answer to this question will be your purpose for reading.

Interacting with the text: Do a close reading of the text. With your partner(s), discuss whether you have found an answer to your question.

Show your partner(s) the parts in the text that don't make sense to you. Write down any new questions you have.

Do a second close reading of the text. Go through your questions with your partner(s). If the answer is not in the text, discuss some possible answers.

Reflecting on the text: With your partner(s), discuss how the title related to the text. Talk about why it was a good or poor title. Discuss with your partner(s) how the strategy of asking questions affected your understanding of this text.

Writing activity: Working with your partner(s), use the graphic organizer to write two lists of questions based on this text:

- Questions that might have more than one correct answer (open-ended questions)
- Questions that are not answered in the text

Hint: start your questions with “Why” or “How.”

