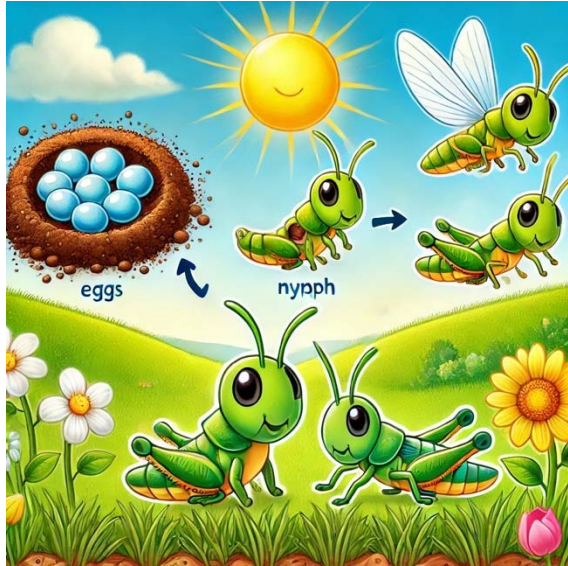


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## From Egg to Jumper: The Life Cycle of a Grasshopper

Grasshoppers go through an incredible journey from birth to adulthood. Their life cycle is divided into three main stages: egg, nymph, and adult. Let's take a closer look at each stage.

The life of a grasshopper begins as an egg. Female grasshoppers lay their eggs in the soil, where they stay protected from predators and harsh weather. A female can lay up to 200 eggs in small groups, called pods. These eggs remain in the soil through the winter months, waiting for warmer spring weather to hatch.

When the eggs hatch, tiny grasshoppers called nymphs emerge. Nymphs look like miniature grasshoppers but don't have wings yet. They immediately start eating plants to fuel their growth. Over the next 4 to 8 weeks, the nymphs go through several stages of growth, called instars. During each instar, the nymphs shed their outer skin in a process called molting. Each time they molt, they get bigger and closer to becoming full-grown grasshoppers.

The final stage is adulthood. Once a grasshopper has grown wings, it is ready to live on its own, find food, and reproduce. Adult grasshoppers are excellent jumpers, using their powerful back legs to leap great distances. They also use their wings to fly short distances when they need to escape predators or search for food.

Grasshoppers typically live for about two months as adults. While this may seem short, they make the most of their time by helping balance ecosystems. They eat plants and provide food for animals like birds and frogs. By laying many eggs, grasshoppers ensure that new generations will continue the cycle.

The grasshopper's life cycle shows how nature provides a simple yet effective plan for survival. From tiny eggs to powerful adults, every stage plays an important role in the life of a grasshopper.