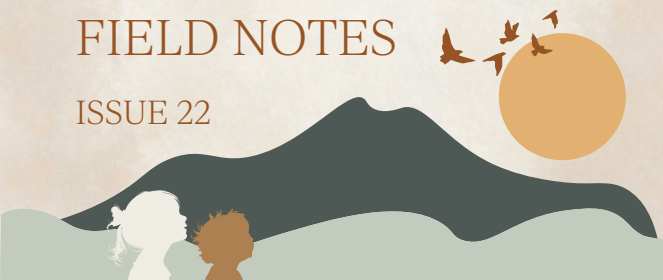


# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 22



## Grasshopper

INSECT

### HABITAT & DIET

Most grasshopper like living in dry areas with lots of grass or short plants. They eat leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds.

### FUN FACT:

Grasshoppers come in many colors. They can be green, brown, gray, yellow, red, and orange. They can change color as they molt.



## HAVE YOU EVER FOUND AN EMPTY INSECT SHELL?

When I was growing up in Wisconsin, I would find cicada shells attached to trees. Have you ever seen one of these? They look like insects but are empty shells. It is the exoskeleton that they shed. Do you know what an exoskeleton is?



CICADA SHELL

Some creatures, known as invertebrates, do not have backbones. Instead of bones inside, many invertebrates have an exoskeleton, a harder shell around their body. Many go through a process called molting, where they shed their exoskeleton as they grow. Grasshoppers go through this process. A young grasshopper will molt 4–7 times. As it gets bigger, it no longer fits its exoskeleton, so it splits at the back, and the grasshopper climbs out. Then, its soft body begins to harden into a new exoskeleton. Just yesterday, my son found a grasshopper molting. I took the photo of it on the bottom left. Have you ever seen anything like this?

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!"

God gave us a beautiful image of old things becoming new when He designed creatures that molt their exoskeleton. This includes most insects, spiders, and crustaceans. As we learn about these creatures, we can think about how God makes us new, too. As we grow in Jesus by learning about Him, following Him, and praying, God gives us new ways of thinking and new desires in our hearts. What is one way God is making you new right now? Is He helping you build good habits or let go of bad habits? Is He helping you think about everything good, lovely, and true? Ask God to keep working in your heart and mind as you learn about Him and the amazing creatures He has made.

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