SYNOPSIS
The Walking Classroom’s Laura Fenn talks with Dr. Jason Cryan, the Deputy Museum Director for Research & Collections, as well as an entomologist at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science. Jason shares about the immense biodiversity in the insect world and what happens when scientists discover a new species.

VOCABULARY
Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today’s podcast)

- **curator**: (noun) keeper of a museum or other collection; ensures specimens are maintained for all of the future so researchers can continue to use them for scientific research.

- **biodiversity**: (noun) the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

- **temperate**: (adjective) a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

1. Jason Cryan explained that species discovery happens out in the field, but it can also happen in the museum by looking through collections. How does this relate to the importance of having curators of collections?

2. Jason Cryan shared that there are over 1,000,000 different species of insects known to science, but that’s still only a fraction of the actual number. Why is important to keep trying to discover new species and understand how species are related to one another?

3. Jason Cryan explained that there are rules about how a species gets its name that is part of a branch of science called Taxonomy. Why is it important that there are rules about how an organism is named?
**BOOK SUGGESTIONS**
Consider reading aloud or making some of these titles available to students to reinforce and extend some of the concepts covered in today’s podcast.

*Tree of Life* by Rochelle Strauss  
There are millions of forms of life on earth, and since humans are just one of them, there is still much to learn about the organisms we share this Earth with. This book shows how organisms are classified into the five kingdoms and what each tells us about our world.

*Cicadas!: Strange and Wonderful* by Laurence Pringle  
Why do cicadas buzz? Learn the answer and more in this book about these noisy insects!

*National Geographic Kids – Everything Insects* by Carrie Gleason  
This book is packed full of incredible photos and amazing facts about insects.

**EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**
The following activities are ways to build on and extend some of the topics discussed in the podcast. We strongly encourage you to always preview videos prior to showing them to your students.

Magiccicada.org  
This is website is dedicated to cicadas and tracking various broods. There is information about when broods will be emerging in the near future, their behavior, maps, citizen science projects involving cicadas, and much more. There is also a link so that students can hear what the cicadas sound like.

Article from HighlightsKids.com  
This is an article about spittlebugs along with images to help students better understand these interesting creatures. There is also an option to have the article read aloud to students.

A video from Ted-Ed (4:18)  
This video that explains that some ecosystems are stringing than others, and better able to survive great change, due to their biodiversity.