**Language Features of a Cyclical Explanation**

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| **Cyclical Explanation** | **Language Features** |
| **The Life Cycle of a Cicada**  Cicadas go through four main stages throughout their life time – egg, early nymph, later nymph and adult.  The adult cicada lays eggs in the grooves of branches. The eggs stay packed in the grooves, until it is time for them to hatch. When the eggs hatch, the young cicadas emerge as early nymphs to feed on the tree sap. At this stage the early nymphs look like tiny, white ants.  The nymphs feed and grow and then drop to the ground where they bury deep into the dirt. The nymphs can spend several years underground, feeding on the roots of the trees. Throughout their time underground, the nymphs grow.  During the summer months, after spending many years underground, the cicada nymphs emerge from the dirt and climb up the trunks of trees. They shed their outer skins and spread their wings. The male cicadas make a loud singing sound as they communicate with the females. The cicadas spend the warmer months in the trees, and become fully grown adult cicadas. The new adult female cicadas lay eggs in the grooves of the branches.­­­­ | *Noun groups-* *a single noun (e.g. cicadas) and those which include a pre-modifier (e.g. the adult cicada – article + adjective + noun).*  *Generalised participants-* *generalised noun groups to help us understand that this explanation of the life cycle is about what happens to all cicadas (e.g. female cicadas, cicada nymphs).*  *Action Verbs mainly used*  *Prepositional phrases of time or place*  *Present tense (e.g. The adult cicada lays eggs in the grooves of trees)*  *Conjunctions of time (after, when, until)*  *Simple sentence- At this stage, the early nymphs look like tiny, white ants.*  *Compound sentence- They shed their outer skins and (they) spread their wings.*  *Complex sentence-The male cicadas make a loud singing sound as they communicate with the females.* |