



Spider Activity Pack



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Wildlife and Heritage Service



Do You Like Spiders?

Yes

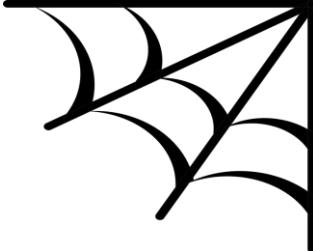


No



Explain why you do or do not like spiders:

Know/Wonder/ Learned: Spiders



Fill out the chart below on what you know about spiders, what you wonder about them, and then read about spiders. Write what you have learned.

KNOW

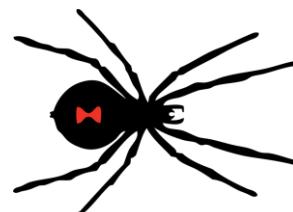
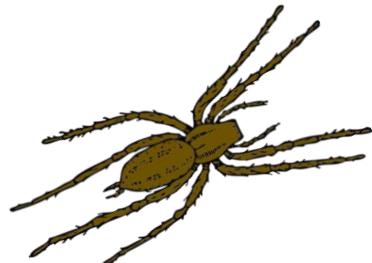
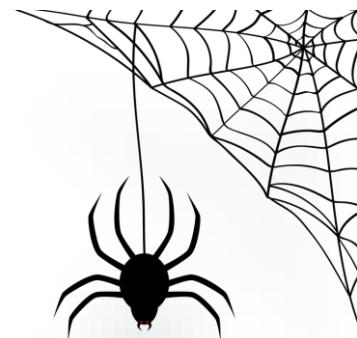
WONDER

LEARNED

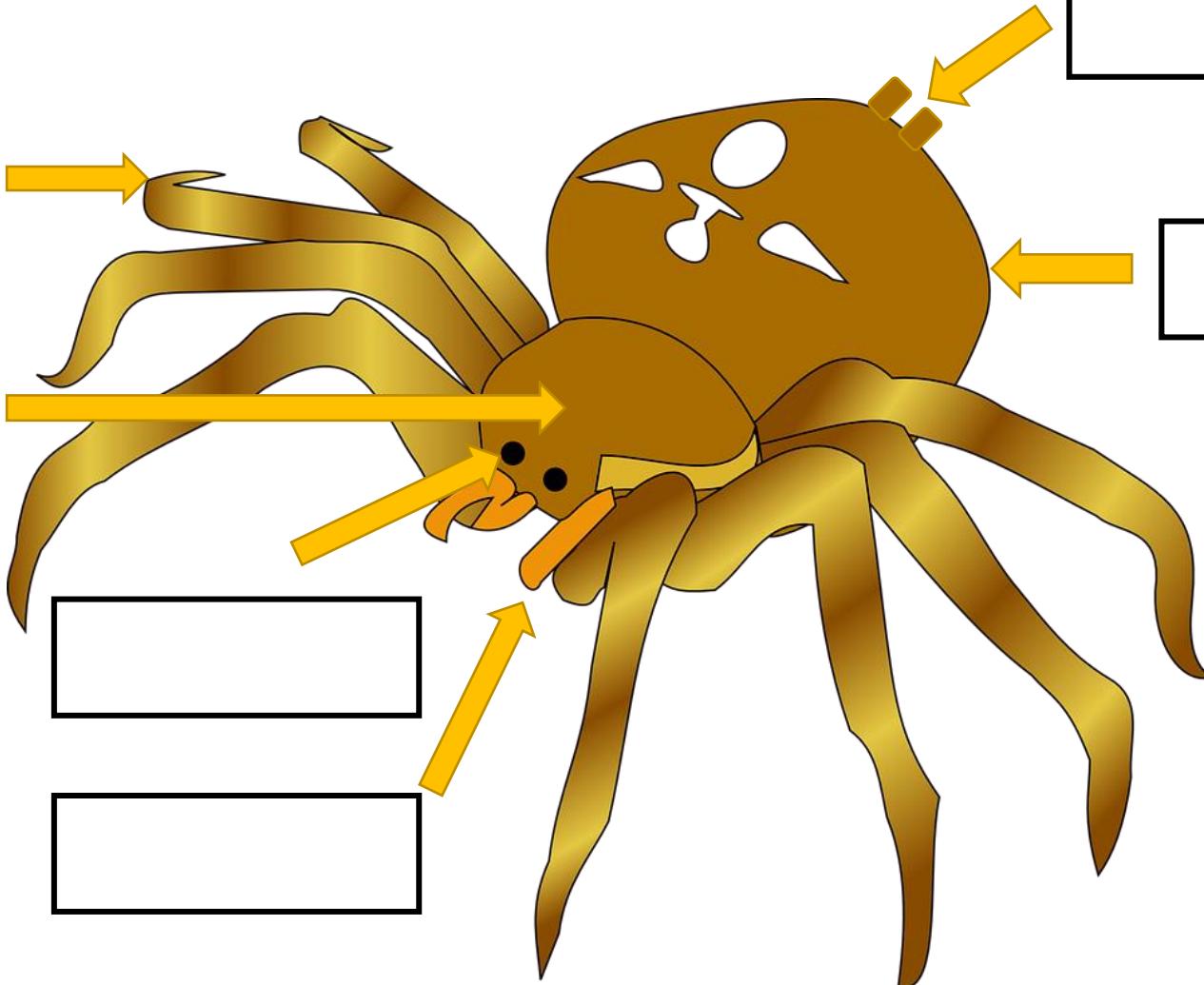


Spider Facts

- Spiders are arachnids.
- Spiders have 8 legs and 2 body parts.
- Over 290 species of spiders are found in Maryland.
- Spider webs are made of silk.
- Not all spiders build webs.
- Baby spiders are called spiderlings.
- The largest spider in the world is the Goliath Bird-eating Tarantula.
- Jumping spiders “sing” and “dance” to attract mates.



Label the Parts of a Spider



Eyes

Legs

Feelers

Abdomen

Head

Spinnerets

Spider Anatomy Snacks

Learn about the parts of a spider and have fun, too!

Grab cookies or crackers in two different sizes. Make the small size the “head” and the large size the “abdomen”.

Use pretzel sticks or candy to add the legs.

Decorate with cream cheese, frosting, or other supplies.

Enjoy!



Cool Spider Spotlight

The **black and yellow garden spider** (aka argiope) is common in Maryland.

The female is large and builds a web with a zig-zag in the middle.

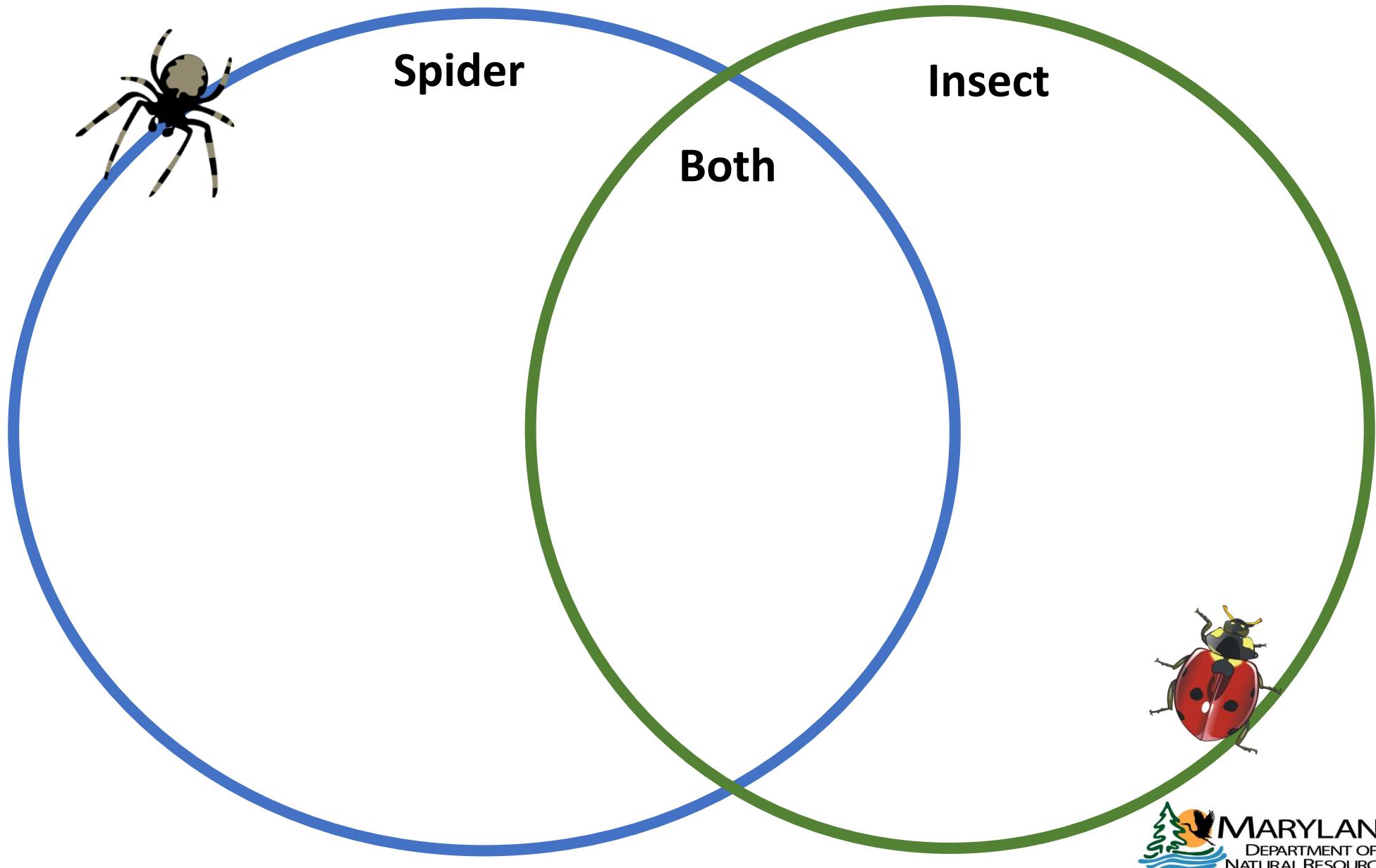
Her head is silver, and her abdomen is yellow and black.

She can eat wasps and hornets.



Spider vs. Insect Venn Diagram

Read up on spiders and insects. What are some ways they are similar? How are they different? Add these comparisons to the diagram below:



Types of Webs

Did you know? Different species of spiders make different types of webs. Here are some examples:



Orbweaver



Cobweb



Funnel

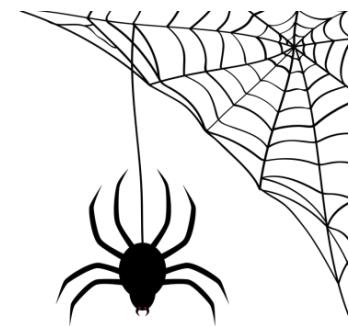


Sheet

CC BY 2.5, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Spider Web Scavenger Hunt

Let's look for webs. You can look inside and outside.



Draw your web.

What type of web did you find?

Orb Cobweb Funnel

Sheet Other

Where did you find it?

Inside Outside

Other observations:



Cool Spider Spotlight



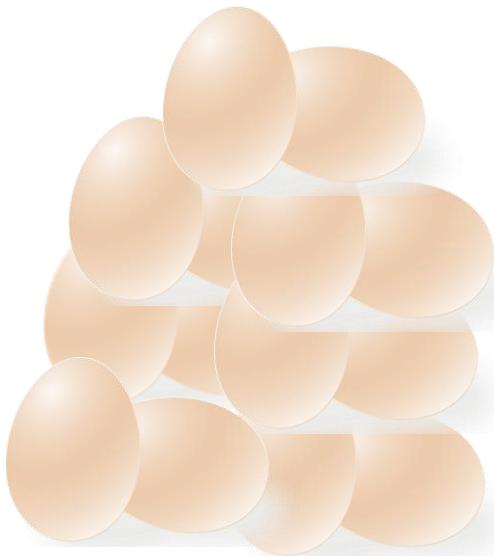
The **marbled orbweaver** is sometimes called the pumpkin spider. It lives in woodlands. It likes to roll up leaves and hide inside during the day. The abdomen can be yellow and black or orange.

This spider eats insects, including stink bugs!

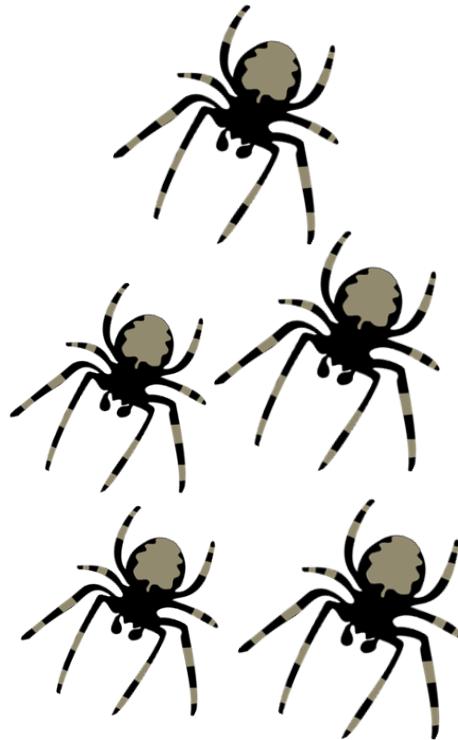
Photo by: Kerry Wixted

Spider Life Cycle

Print the cards below and see if you can put them in order.



Eggs



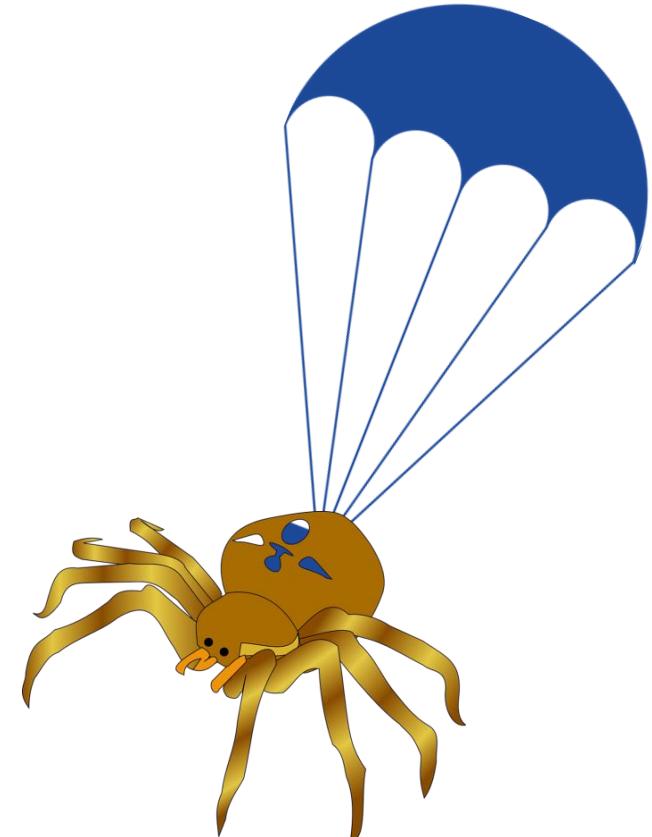
Spiderlings



Spider

Did You Know?

Some spiderlings travel by ballooning. They make a silk parachute and fly in the wind. See if you can make a spider parachute!

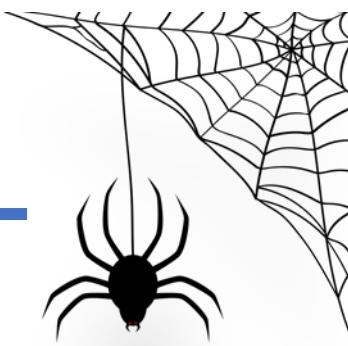


Materials

- Coffee filter
- Scissors
- String
- Plastic spider
- Box fan (optional)

1. Take your coffee filter and cut it up to your desired shape.
2. Attach the string to the filter.
3. Attach your spider down below.
4. Test it out! Use a fan to see if you can blow your spider far.
5. Try a new design! What works best?

I'm a Little Spider



I'm a little spider,
Watch me spin.

If you'll be my dinner,
I'll let you come in.

Then I'll spin my web to hold you tight,
and gobble you up in one big bite!



(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)



Photo by: Kerry Wixted

Cool Spider Spotlight



The female **bolas spider** looks like bird poop to hide from predators like birds.

It creates a sticky yo-yo (bolas) that attracts moths. She uses this to catch them.



Photo by: Judy Gallagher CC by 2.0

Spider Folklore

Did you know? Around the world, different cultures have stories about spiders. Here are a few below:



Anansi, West Africa

By Biblioteca Juvenil Mayaguez, CC BY-SA 4.0

Anansi is smart and crafty. Anansi often plays tricks on opponents. Anansi spun the fabric from which people would be made.



Spider Grandmother, Hopi

By fenixcs, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Spider Grandmother is wise and can appear as a woman or a spider. She gives advice and medicinal cures.

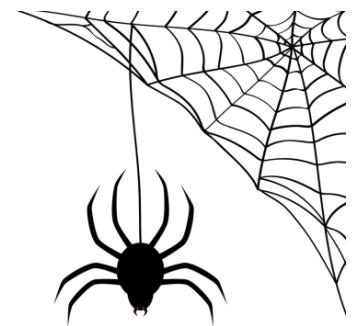


Christmas Spider, Germany

By Unknown Author CC BY-SA-NC

A poor family couldn't afford to decorate their Christmas tree, so the spiders decorated it for them!

Make Your Own Spider Tale!



Draw your spider character.

A large, empty blue-outlined rectangular box intended for children to draw their own spider character.

Name:

Write your spider story below:

Common Maryland Spiders

There are over 290 species of spider in Maryland.



Cellar Spider



**Common
House Spider**



Crab Spider



Jumping Spider



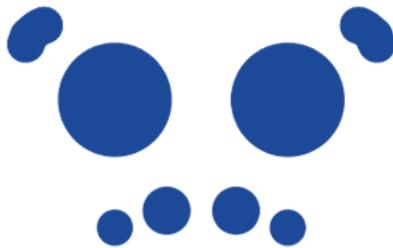
Orbweaver



Wolf Spider

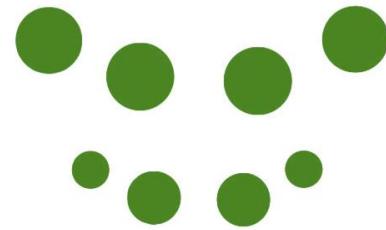
It's All in the Eyes

Did you know? Two groups of spiders- wolf spiders and fishing spiders- are often confused. You can look at the eye patterns to tell the groups of spiders apart.



Wolf Spider

Two large eyes and a slightly frowning lower level of eyes



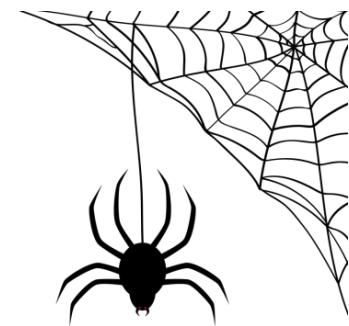
Fishing Spider

Two rows of slightly smiling eyes;
the upper eyes are larger



Spider Scavenger Hunt

Let's look for spiders! You can look inside and outside.



Draw your spider.

What type of spider did you find?

Orb Cellar Jumping

House Other _____

Where did you find it?

Inside Outside

Describe your spider:

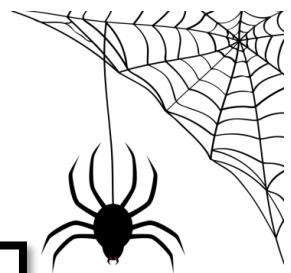


Cool Spider Spotlight

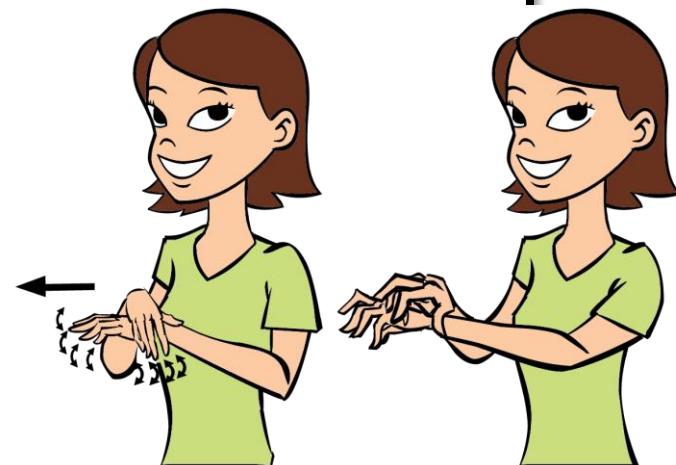


- **Jumping spiders** are active hunters that find their prey.
- They have large, front-facing eyes and flat faces.
- They can jump up to 50x their body length!
- Males “dance” and “sing” to attract females. If she doesn’t like his dance moves, she might eat him!

How to Say 'Spider' in Sign Language



spider



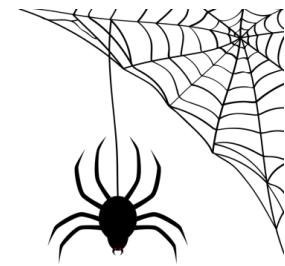
 Baby Sign Language.com

Courtesy of: <https://www.babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/s/spider/>

How to Say ‘Spider’ in Different Languages

Afrikaans	spinnekop
Arabic	عنكبوت (eankabut)
Chinese	蜘蛛 (zhīzhū)
Czech	pavouk
Filipino	gagamba
French	araignée
German	Spinne
Greek	αράχνη (aráchni)
Hebrew	עַכְבָּר
Hindi	मकड़ी
Indonesian	Laba-laba
Irish	damhán alla
Italian	ragno
Japanese	クモ

Korean	거미 (geomi)
Maori	pūngāwerewere
Persian	عنکبوت
Portuguese	aranha
Russian	паук (pauk)
Spanish	araña
Swahili	buibui
Swedish	Spindel
Ukrainian	павук (pavuk)
Vietnamese	Nhện



Nefertiti- the Spidernaut!

- Did you know? Nefertiti was a jumping spider that was launched into space and lived aboard the International Space Station (ISS) for 100 days.
- She was named after the Egyptian Queen.
- She was still able to catch prey in microgravity.
- She lived for 10 months.



Astronaut Suni Williams with the YouTube SpaceLab Spider Habitat where Nefertiti the spidernaut lived while she was on orbit
Image Credit: NASA



Nefertiti the spidernaut on ISS
Image Credit: NASA





Spider-Friendly Backyards

Follow these steps to make your backyard welcoming to spiders:

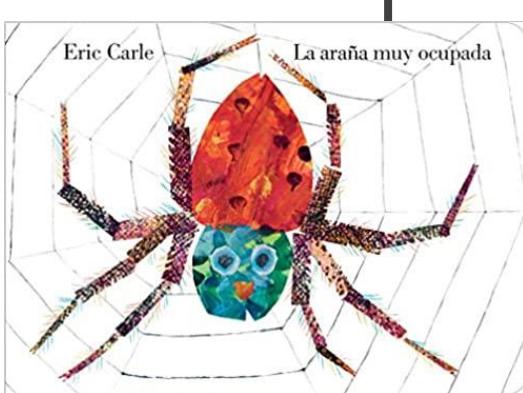
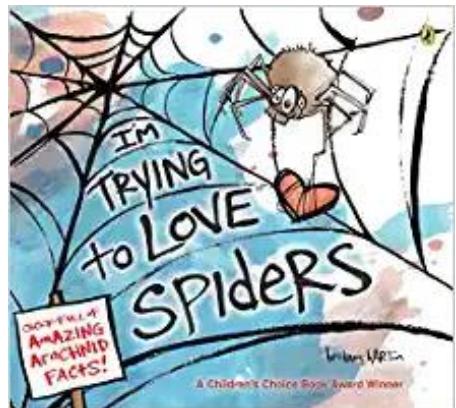
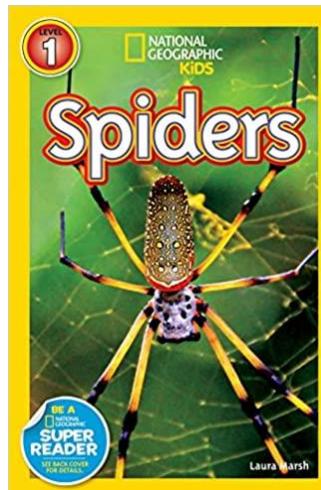
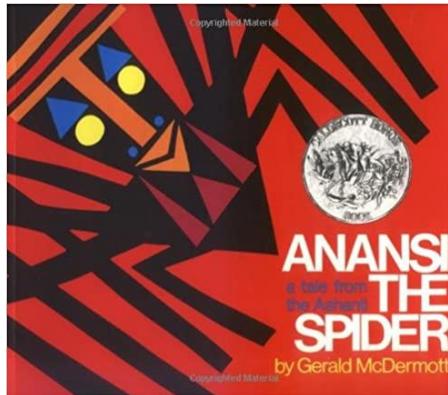
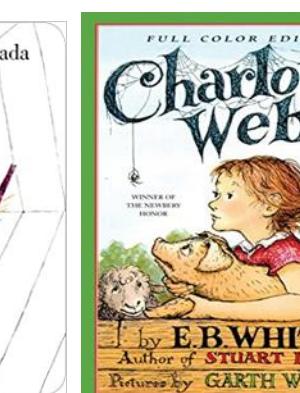
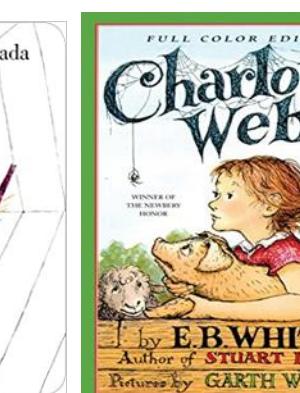
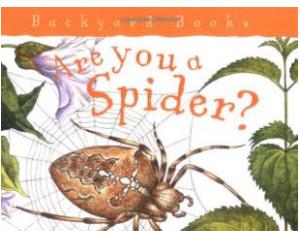
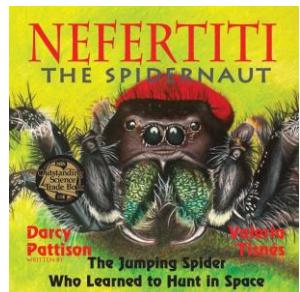
- Plant native plants.
- Hold off on the pesticides.
- Leave the leaves in the fall.
- Make habitat- create log piles and rock piles for cover.

By Doreen Cronin • Pictures by Harry Bliss

DIARY OF A SPIDER



FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING TEAM



For More Information:

- MD DNR Common Spider Page:
- <https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/habitat/waspiders.aspx>
- MD DNR Wildlife Education Page:
- <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Education/home.aspx>
- Common Spiders of Ohio (PDF):
- <https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/wildlife/backyard-wildlife/Common%20Spiders%20of%20Ohio%20Field%20Guide%20pub5140.pdf>

