

A Book About Spiders



A jumping spider

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A spider's body

Spiders have eight legs and insects have six legs. So, spiders are not insects. They are **arachnids** (say: are-ack-nids)

A spider's body is in two parts, the head and the abdomen.

Most spiders have eight eyes.

They have hairy legs and they have claws on their legs to help them walk on their web. The legs are joined to the abdomen.

Label the parts of the spider.

*head
legs
abdomen
eyes
claws*



2

Catching food

All spiders spin silk. The silk comes out of parts of the abdomen called **spinnerets**

Some spiders use the sticky silk to make webs to catch insects for food.

Some spiders do not make webs. They catch food by jumping on it.

All spiders use fangs with poison inside to kill their food when they catch it.

Draw a spider in its web.

What spiders eat

Spiders live almost everywhere on the earth. They live where they can find food. Caves, forests, and deserts are places where spiders live. Some live in our houses and sheds or on the outside of buildings.

Spiders eat insects, but some spiders eat tadpoles, frogs, fish and mice. Spiders sometimes eat each other!

Make a list of the places where you have seen spiders.

Different kinds of spiders

There are lots of different spiders.

Most of them do not hurt people. Most spiders help people by eating insects and household pests.

Make a list of 6 insect pests that spiders eat

There are a few spiders in Australia that are dangerous.

The white- tailed spider is one of the dangerous ones.



A white-tailed spider

Two other dangerous spiders



Sydney funnel-web and the red-back spider are very dangerous spiders. Read about them on kidcyber

Many people are afraid of spiders. Write some reasons you think this might be. Ask friends for their reasons and write them.

Baby spiders

Female spiders lay eggs. They wrap the eggs in a sac made of silk. Some spiders hide the egg sac. Some spiders carry it with them.

When the eggs hatch the baby spiders come out. Baby spiders are called **spiderlings**. They shed their skins as they grow. Soon they walk away from others, or swing away on threads of silk. This is called **ballooning**.

Draw or paste pictures of spiderlings ballooning

A Spider Quiz: fill the gaps

A spider has _____ legs.

All spiders _____ silk.

Most spiders have _____ eyes.

Some spiders make _____.

The silk comes out of _____.

Insects are caught in the _____ web.

The _____ is a dangerous Australian spider.

Some spiders carry their _____ sac.

Baby spiders are called _____.

They swing away on _____ threads.

This is called _____.

You can read more about spiders at
<https://www.kidcyber.com.au/spiders>

Also

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/group/spiders/>

<https://www.spiders.com.au/Some%20Local%20Australian%20Spiders%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/spiders/>

<https://www.australia-backpackersguide.com/spiders-australia/>

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