



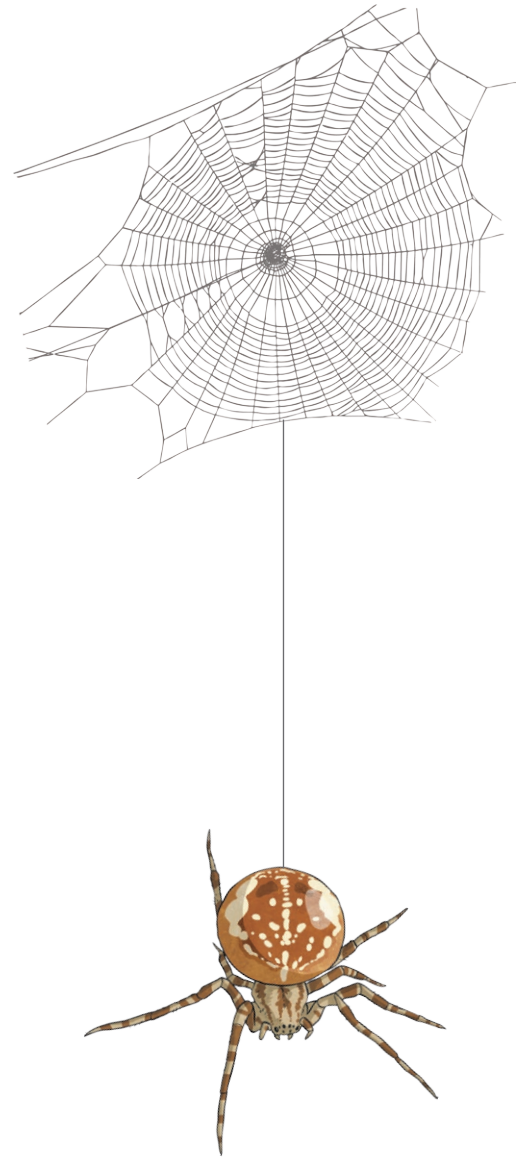
Spiders

Spiders belong to the arachnid family because they have an exoskeleton. Spiders are invertebrates and are very fascinating creatures to study.

Spiders live all over the world. They do not live in cold regions. They are most likely to be found in dark and dry places including grasslands so they don't get washed away in the winter. Some spiders are even known to live in rubbish bins. Trap door spiders live in burrows, and many other spiders can be found living between the bricks in people's homes or even between wood piles in backyards.

Spiders come in many different and unique shapes and sizes. The largest spider is the tarantula. These spiders can grow up to 12cm long. The smallest is the money spider, which only grows to 1cm in size.

All spiders have two body parts consisting of a head and abdomen, and eight legs. Spiders are known to have a tough, hard outer covering called an exoskeleton. Their bodies are often hairy and they are able to cleverly camouflage their body from predators.



Spiders

Spiders have long segmented legs which enable them to walk and scuttle. These creatures can move extremely quickly to catch insects. They are extremely flexible, so they sometimes curl their body into a ball. Many spiders can run on water.

Spiders eat many different types of food. The female spiders are known to eat the male spider in some species. Web spiders eat insects caught in their sticky webs. Other spiders inject poison into their prey before eating them.

Male spiders mate by first tapping the female spider's web. The male offers the female an insect and then waves his legs frantically to attract her attention. After mating, the female lays eggs in an egg sac of silk thread. A spider can lay several thousand at once. They can lay them in leaves, trees, and even on fences. The female spider will die after she has laid her eggs, and several months later these will hatch. Baby spiders are called spiderlings.

