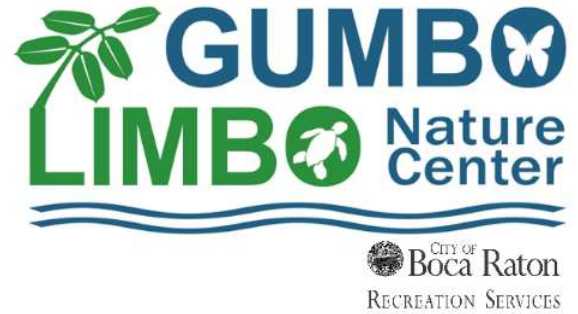


Are Your Arachnid Senses Tingling?

Spiders and scorpions are both types of **arachnids** and they are also **carnivores**, which eat other animals. Spiders and scorpions use many of their senses to find food, but overall the most important sense for them is their sense of touch.



The food that these creatures feel-around for is very small, think about how little a beetle, fly, or mosquito weigh! Well, spiders and scorpions use tiny hairs on their legs to solve this problem. These hairs are very sensitive to vibrations their prey makes. In the right conditions, spiders can feel their prey far away on their web and scorpions can feel a single grain of sand move at a far distance, WOW! What can you feel with your hair?



(Warning: this video contains a scorpion catching its prey! If that scares you, stop watching at 2m51s and continue to activity)

Watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVWk-oz4Ffs>

Materials:

- 1 friendly partner
- 1 chair

Activity:

1. Ask your partner to sit down on a chair and close their eyes
 2. As lightly as you can, touch their hair in a random spot.
 3. Can you “beat” their hair’s sense of touch?
 4. Take turns and see if they can “beat” your sense of touch!
 5. Ask yourself:
- Do you think our hair can feel the weight of a single grain of sand like a scorpion?
 - How about vibrations as small as a single atom? (as mentioned in the video at 02m23s)

Sources: Polis, G. A. 1990. *The Biology of Scorpions*. Retrieved from <https://www.worldcat.org/title/biology-of-scorpions/oclc/18991506>

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