

Spider Web Discovery Activity

An at-home or park outdoor activity that allows children to be observant and understand spiders a bit more. Adult supervision may be required. Provided by Gumbo Limbo education staff.

Purpose: To explore and learn more about how spiders live.

Spiders:

Spiders are not normally first on the average person's list of animals they love—not even the second... or third. In fact, many people are *afraid* of spiders. Spiders are misunderstood though. They are often misidentified as insects when they are actually part of the **arachnid** family. Arachnids are **invertebrates**, or animals having no backbone/spine, have eight legs (insects have six), and having no antennae. Other animals that are classified as arachnids include scorpions, ticks, and mites.

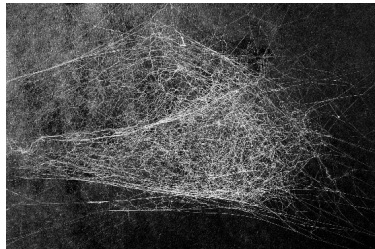


Spiders play a very important role in controlling pesky insect populations. Insects like flies and mosquitoes make up a large part of a spider's diet... Not people! So, make sure to thank your local spiders for keeping those blood-sucking mosquitoes in check!

Spiders also create intricate, beautiful webs which are made of silk that their bodies make that act as a home for themselves and as traps for their next meal. Different spiders create different kinds of webs. Take a look at these different photo examples:



ORB WEB



COB/TANGLE WEB



SHEET WEB



FUNNEL WEB

Activity:

1. Have a printed copy of the following page or grab a notebook to write down your findings.
2. Go to an outdoor area—this can be at a park, or even your own backyard!
3. Find a spider web. Be sure not to destroy it—our spider friends worked very hard on it so be extra careful.
4. Write down your observations!