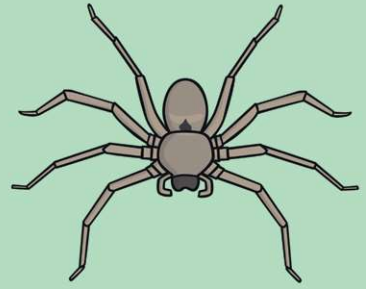


Spiders

Spiders can come in all shapes and sizes. Some are so small they can sit on the head of a pin; others are bigger than a grown man's hand. Though people think they are insects like bees and wasps, they are in fact arachnids. This means they have eight legs and not six.



Super Spider Facts

You can find spiders in all of the different countries in the world, apart from ones where it snows a lot.

Different Types of Spider

The largest spider in the world is the Goliath bird-eating spider. They are named after the famous giant in the Bible story of David and Goliath. They live in South America, in the rainforests. The name is a bit confusing, as they don't actually eat birds. They mostly eat worms and toads.

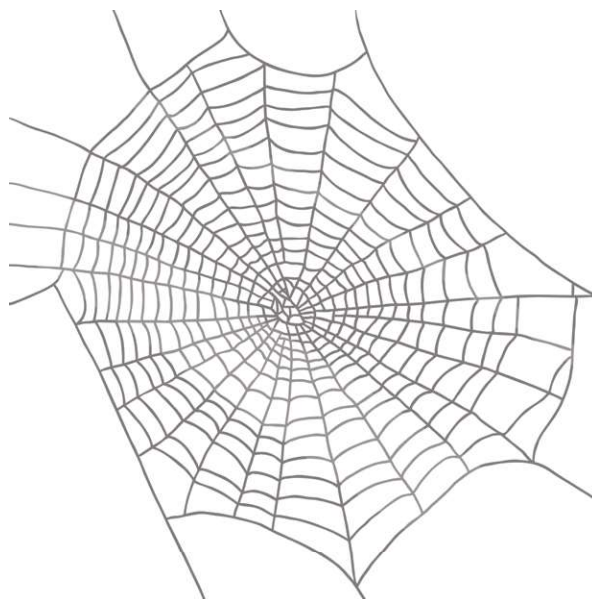
The smallest spider in the world is the Samoan moss spider. They are about the same size as a full stop. Even though they are tiny, these spiders are still very poisonous but their fangs aren't long enough to bite into a person's skin.



Some More Amazing Spider Facts

- There are about 40 000 species of spider in the world.
- Fear of spiders is known as arachnophobia.
- Most spiders are completely harmless to people. Only a few species are venomous.

Nearly all spiders catch their food by spinning a web that acts like a trap. This web is made from very thin but very strong silk. When insects fly into it, they get stuck and the spiders can wrap them up in even more silk. Spiderwebs are very beautiful, made up of hundreds of small shapes, and can take a spider days to make.



Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What kind of animal are spiders?

2. About how many species of spider are there?

3. Where in the world would you not find spiders?

4. What do spiders make to catch food?

5. Why is a Samoan moss spider not dangerous to people?

6. What do spiders make their webs with?

7. Where could you find a Goliath bird-eating spider?

8. What piece of punctuation is the same size as a Samoan moss spider?

Spiders Answers

1. What kind of animal are spiders?

Spiders are arachnids.

2. About how many species of spider are there?

There are about 40 000 species of spider.

3. Where in the world would you not find spiders?

Children's answers will vary. Accept answers that include reference to a part of the world where it snows a lot e.g. You would not find spiders in Antarctica; You would not find spiders in the Arctic; You would not find spiders in the polar regions etc.

4. What do spiders make to catch food?

Spiders make webs to trap their food.

5. Why is a Samoan moss spider not dangerous to people?

Samoan moss spiders are not dangerous to people as their fangs can't bite through skin.

6. What do spiders make their webs with?

Spiders make their webs by spinning silk.

7. Where could you find a Goliath bird-eating spider?

You would find the Goliath spider in the rainforest, in South America.

8. What piece of punctuation is the same size as a Samoan moss spider?

A Samoan moss spider is the same size as a full stop.