

# Science Story Adventures



## Spiders

### Learning outcomes

- » Students know different animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life sciences)
- » Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. (Grade 1 - Life sciences)
- » Students know plants and animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction. (Grade 3 - Life sciences)

*From: California's Science Content Standards*

### Books we read

*Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin

*Aaaaarrgghh! Spider!* by Lydia Monks

### Activities we did

- » We read the poem "S is for Spider" from *The Insect Wonderland* by Sybil Kent Kane, which highlights the differences between spiders and insects.
- » We looked at a tarantula and talked about their interesting characteristics.
- » We explored how spiders feed, walk on their webs without getting stuck, and how spiderlings venture out on their own through activities from the book *Play and Find Out About Bugs* by Janice VanCleave.

### Today's craft: Creeping Spider

#### You will need:

- » Cardstock
- » Pencil
- » Scissors
- » Crayons or colored pencils
- » 2 pony beads
- » 4 black pipe cleaners
- » Scotch tape
- » Drinking straw
- » 1 yard (1 m) of thin yarn or string



#### Directions:

1. Draw and cut out a circle that is 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter and another that is 2 inches (5 cm) in diameter on the cardstock.
2. Tape the smaller circle (the head) to the larger circle (the abdomen). Color the front of the spider.
3. Tape the four pipe cleaners to the head, bending them to form the 8 legs.
5. Cut two 1 inch (2.5 cm) pieces from the straw and tape them to the middle of the abdomen with the holes pointing towards the head. They should be about 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart.
6. Thread the yarn through the straw pieces, going through from the abdomen up towards the head and then down the other side so that there is a loop above the head. A small amount of the ends of the yarn should hang below the abdomen. Tie a pony bead to each end of the yarn.
7. Hang the loop of yarn over a doorknob. Gently pull the two yarn ends away from each other and watch your spider creep upwards.

*Adapted from The Kids' Natural History Book by Judy Press*

# Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

## Books

*About Arachnids: A Guide for Children* by Cathryn P. Sill. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL452.2 .S55 2003

An overview of the different kinds of arachnids and their place in our world.

*Adiós, Chi Chi: The Adventures of a Tarantula* by Carol A. Amato. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL458.42.T5 A47 1996

A tarantula stows away in María's suitcase and becomes her temporary pet.

*Be Nice to Spiders* by Margaret Bloy Graham. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL452.2 .G72 1967

A classic in which Helen the spider moves into the zoo and does her part to help the animals.

*El Ciclo de Vida de la Araña* by Bobbie Kalman & Kathryn Smithyman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL458.4 .K345 2007\*

An overview of the life cycle of spiders. Includes information on threats to spiders and what kids can do to protect them.

*Nic Bishop Spiders* by Nic Bishop. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL458.4 .B58 2007

Extreme close-ups of different kinds of spiders, as they hunt, eat and spin webs complimented with informative and engaging text.

*The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL452.2 .C37 1984

A tactile book about why a spider is too busy to play with the animals on the farm.

\**Libro en español.*

## DVDs

*The Magic School Bus Creepy Crawly Fun*. Nat. Ctr. Media QC225.5 .M34 2009

In the episode "Spins a Web", the Magic School Bus kids learn all about how spiders hunt.

## Websites

BioKids Spiders (Araneae)

The who, where, what and how of spiders in general, and more details on 10 specific types of spider.

<http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Araneae/>

The Construction of a Wheel Web

Photos and diagrams show how a spider spins a web.

[http://ednieuw.home.xs4all.nl/Spiders/Info/Construction\\_of\\_a\\_web.html](http://ednieuw.home.xs4all.nl/Spiders/Info/Construction_of_a_web.html)

Spiders

After learning all about spiders, second graders from Pocantico Hills School put together this website, which has quizzes and activities as well as information.

<http://www.pocanticohills.org/spiders/spiders.htm>

Spider Myths

Think you know something about spiders? Check your facts!

<http://www.burkemuseum.org/spidermyth/>

Spiders Puzzler

National Geographic offers spider jigsaw and slide puzzles.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/games/puzzlesquizzes/spiders-puzzler/>