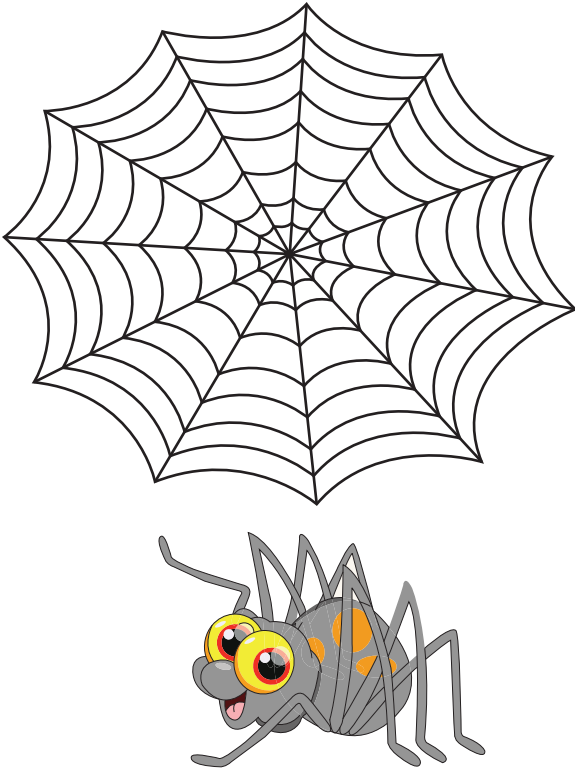


# The Spider's Web

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Have you ever walked into a sticky spider's web? It might have clung to your face, hair, or arms. Perhaps it took a lot of brushing and picking to get yourself free from it. But what is a spider's web? How is it made? Why is it made?

Finding a spider's web can be an easy way to determine whether a spider lives nearby. It isn't always the surest way, though. While it's true that a spider's web can be used as the spider's home, it might also be used in other ways. This means the spider who spun it might

be long gone. That spider's web you walked through might not indicate that a spider is nearby at all!

Spiders make webs from special glands in their bodies called silk glands. These glands produce the silk, and the spider uses its spindly legs to pull out the silk. Pulling out the silk is possible because spiders have tiny claws along their legs, which allow them to grip it.

Some spiders have more than one type of silk gland. These spiders might have silk that is sticky, like the sticky web you might have walked through. They also might have silk that is fuzzy but not sticky, or silk that is soft and stretchy.

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Spiders use these different types of silk to create different types of webs. Sticky webs can be used to catch food, such as other bugs or insects. The sticky silk traps the food so it can't escape. Spiders must tread carefully to keep from sticking to it themselves!

Another type of silk is used to create a home or a type of protection for the spider's eggs. These types of webs can be found in trees, under leaves, or in the corners of houses and porches. These types of webs are usually not sticky, but they are soft and feathery.

Spiders also use webs to travel from place to place. They might string out a stretchy, silky web on a tree branch and use it to climb down to the ground.

Not all spiders spin webs. Certain types of spiders, like the brown recluse, rarely use webs. They hunt for their food and they don't live in webs, so they don't often have a reason to make this silky substance.

The spider's web is a delicate but amazing and interesting part of nature.

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- 1) Read the second paragraph again. Choose which sentence encapsulates its main idea.
  - a) The spider leaves soon after spinning the web.
  - b) Does finding a spider's web mean there's a spider living nearby?
  - c) Interestingly, a spider's web can be used in multiple ways.
  
- 2) Which sentence best paraphrases the below sentence?  
Not all spiders spin webs.
  - a) No spider spins webs.
  - b) There are some spiders that don't spin webs.
  - c) There are some spiders that spin webs.
  
- 3) What does the word "delicate" mean as used in the below sentence?  
The spider's web is a **delicate** but amazing and interesting part of nature.
  - a) existing for a long time
  - b) inspiring children's curiosity
  - c) needing to be treated carefully
  
- 4) How do spiders make webs?

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# The Spider's Web

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5) Name a spider that doesn't usually spin webs.

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