

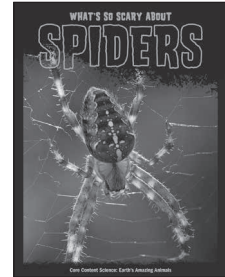
EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Core Content Science: Earth's Amazing Animals

What's So Scary About Spiders

Series Overview

Many people are afraid of wild animals. But many of these animals are not scary at all! In fact, they are fascinating creatures that often help make the world a better place. Each book explores a different “scary” animal and presents fun facts, important information, and, yes, some warnings, as young readers learn why scary animals are often the most interesting.



Lexile: 740 Words: 1,490

About This Book

Spiders seem scary, but they are really quiet creatures who help humans by eating many insect pests. And it's hard not to love nature's best engineer as it builds elaborate web homes. Young readers will explore the world of spiders and their awesome abilities in this exciting and informative look at a creepy creature who really isn't scary at all.

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS ALIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The activities and learning ideas in this guide have been correlated with the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>**

This title most closely relates to the following standard: **Students can make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. (2-LS4-1.)**



Before Reading

Building Background Knowledge:

- Ask students to raise their hands if they are afraid of spiders. Write down the number of students who are afraid of spiders on the board. Invite those students to share why they are afraid of spiders. Tell them that the book will explain why most spiders are not so scary after all.

During Reading

Look for Key Details: As you read each section, invite students to share the most important pieces of information they learned about spiders. You can write these pieces of information on the board, have students write them in their notebooks, or just discuss them verbally. Explain that these are the “key details” of the book.

Reinforce Vocabulary: At the end of each section, have students turn to the glossary to read the definition of any bolded vocabulary words they don’t know. Ask students to share any other words they are unfamiliar with, then go over the definitions with them.

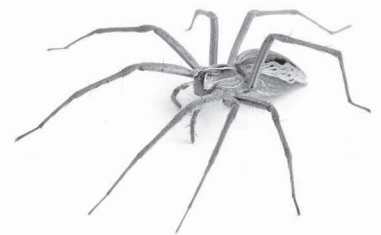
After Reading

- Once again, ask students to raise their hands if they are afraid of spiders. Write down the number of students who are afraid of spiders on the board. Is the number smaller than the one you wrote before reading the book?
- Divide students into groups of two to four. Have each group make a list of key details and facts from the book that show that spiders are actually not so scary after all. Invite each group to share their list with the class.

STUDENT ACTIVITY: FACT WEB

Print out the following spider web and make a copy for each student. Cut out small squares of paper and give eight squares to each student (plus a few extra in case they make mistakes). Each student should also have a glue stick or drip glue.

Ask students to write eight different facts about spiders on the squares, then glue one of the squares onto each of the web’s tips. When they’re finished, they will have made their very own “Fact Web” about spiders! Invite them to share their webs with the class.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Spider (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Explorers):** <https://sdzwildlifeexplorers.org/animals/spider>
- **Spider (Britannica Kids):** <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/spider/353800>
- **Spider Facts for Kids (Kiddle):** <https://kids.kiddle.co/Spider>

VIDEOS

- **Spider for Kids (Wizz):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUx2qqPUyOI>
- **Spiders for Kids (Homeschool Pop):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRZcbeCSoyQ>
- **Don't Be Afraid of Spiders! (SciShow Kids):** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qdxEiIB_Sw



Fact Web Worksheet:

