

# Spooky Spiders

Did you know that most spiders are actually helpful? Read more to learn all about spiders.

## Don't Bug Out

Do spiders *bug* you? They shouldn't. Spiders are not insects! Spiders are **arachnids** (ah-RAK-nihdz). Arachnids are related to ticks and scorpions. All spiders have eight legs, and some have eight eyes. Spiders have two main body parts: the abdomen and the head. Spiders also have fangs, feelers, and silk spinners called **spinnerets**.



Thomas Eisner

*Web-building spiders trap insects in their webs.*

## Builders and Hunters

Spiders are helpful animals. They protect plants by eating insects--their favorite food! That helps farmers keep their crops alive. Spiders catch insects in different ways. **Wandering spiders** hunt for insects. **Web-building spiders** trap insects in their webs.

# Baby Spiders

Mother spiders lay hundreds of spider eggs at a time. Baby spiders, called **spiderlings**, hatch from the eggs. Spiderlings are usually clear. Having no color helps the spiderlings hide from their enemies.

## Wonderful Weavers

Spider silk comes out of the spinnerets as a liquid. Air turns the liquid into strong thread. A spider's silk is stronger than steel! Spiders use their silk to tie up insects, protect their eggs, and weave their webs.



Damon Hart-Davis/DHD Multimedia Gallery

*A spider uses its silk to weave a web.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** What are two animals that spiders are related to?

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**2.** What are the names of some of a spider's body parts?

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**3.** What is the difference between wandering spiders and web-building spiders?

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**4.** What is this passage mostly about?

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5. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Spiders help keep farm crops alive \_\_\_\_\_ they eat insects.

- A. because
- B. but
- C. so

6. Which group of people appears to be related?

