

Year 6 Comprehension 5

WEB-LINKS: SPIDERS

Read this information about spiders, then decide whether the statements that follow are true or false.



General Characteristics

Spiders, scorpions, mites and ticks are all part of a large group of animals called 'arachnids'. Unlike insects, which have three body parts, spiders have two, have no wings or antennae, and have eight legs and forty-eight knees. There are almost 40,000 different species of spider in the world, the biggest being the Goliath Tarantula which can catch birds.

Other Physical Features

Unlike vertebrates, spiders do not have a skeleton inside their bodies. Instead, they have a hard outer shell known as an 'exoskeleton'. This cannot grow as the young spider gets bigger; so it has to be shed by a process called 'moulting'. The spider crawls out and waits, in a vulnerable state, while its new outer protection hardens.

Wolf Spiders

Wolf spiders don't spin webs. They are lone hunters with excellent eyesight, two of its eight eyes being quite large.



Food

Spiders are carnivorous. Some will eat other spiders. Their legs are covered in hairs which pick up vibrations and smells of possible prey nearby. Having small mouths, they inject poison into their captives with their sharp fangs. This poison 'digests' the victim, turning their insides into a kind of soup, which the spider then feeds on.

Spiders' Webs

At the back of the spider's body are 'spinnerets', which, when pressed against an object, force out some silk in liquid form. As the spider moves to another place, the liquid is drawn out and then hardens in the air. It doesn't stick to its own web because of an oily substance it spreads on to its feet.

Now decide whether the following statements are true or false and tick the appropriate boxes.



statement	true	false
Spiders are eight-legged insects.		
Ants are a type of arachnid.		
Spiders have two body parts.		
There are more than 40,000 different species of spider on Earth.		
Vertebrates have a hard skeleton inside their bodies.		
The exoskeleton of a spider grows as it gets bigger.		
A spider has little protection the moment it crawls out of its exoskeleton.		
A spider can smell with its legs.		
Spiders kills their prey with sharp fangs that inject poison.		
A spider's web silk starts off in liquid form.		
The spider uses an oily substance to harden the silk threads for its web.		
Spiders are forever getting stuck in their own webs.		
All spiders spin webs.		
Wolf spiders hunt in packs like wolves.		