

Spiders

By Julia Napier

What is a spider?

- Spiders belong to a group of animals called arachnids. They are not insects.
- Arachnids are creatures with two body segments, eight legs, no wings or antennae and are not able to chew. Scorpions, mites, and ticks are also part of the arachnid family.
- There are more than 40 000 different species of spiders.
- Spiders are found in every continent of the world.

Types of spiders

There are lots of different types of spiders such as



Tarantula



Daddy longlegs



wolf spider



House spider



Jumping spider



Black widow spider



Giant hairy spider



Goliath tarantula

What do spiders eat?

- Spiders eat small flies and sometimes eat other spiders.
- They also eat mosquitos, moths and butterflies.
- Sometimes they eat crickets, grasshoppers and beetles.
- Some spiders in Central America eat leaves from acacia trees.



- Spiders cannot eat solid food directly. They need to liquify their food before ingesting it.

Where do spiders live?

- Spiders live in almost every habitat on earth. The only places where there are no spiders are the polar regions, the highest mountains and the oceans.
- Most UK spiders live for around a year, but the females of some species can live for up to two or three years, especially if they live indoors away from predators. The oldest recorded spider in the world was an Australian trapdoor spider which lived to the old age of 43 before being killed by a wasp.
- Some spiders live on spider webs.
- Most spiders make silk that they use to create spider webs and capture prey.
- Abandoned spider webs are called cobwebs.



- As the seasons change, you might have noticed a few more spiders climbing out of the plughole, scuttling across the floor or hiding in corners.

Interesting facts

- An abnormal fear of spiders is called arachnophobia.
- Tarantulas are large spiders - the biggest species have been known to kill mice, lizards and birds.
- Giant huntsman spiders leg-spans are around 30cm(12 in.)
- Most spiders are harmless to humans but a few species such as the black widow can bite humans and inject venom.
- In the UK, there has never been a recorded death from a spider bite.
- It takes a spider about an hour to build a web and they usually build a new one every day.
- Not all spiders catch their food in webs. For example, the wolf spider makes a hole in the ground, and waits inside for prey to come near before catching them.
- The smallest spider in the world is the Patu marplei, and it was found in Samoa (in the South Pacific Ocean).

The End

