



ALL ABOUT SPIDERS

Creep, crawl, and discover the secret world of nature's master web-weavers!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE SPIDERS!

Tiptoe quietly—something small is building a tiny trap. It's a spider! Spiders are amazing creatures known for spinning sticky **webs**, hunting insects, and moving swiftly on eight legs. Although many people find them spooky, spiders are actually helpful and important.





WHAT SPIDERS ARE LIKE

Spiders are **arachnids**, which means they are not insects. They have eight legs, two body parts, and no antennae. Most spiders have eight eyes, though some have fewer. They can make **silk**, a strong and stretchy thread that they use to build **webs**, create safety lines, and wrap their eggs.





WHERE SPIDERS LIVE

Spiders live almost everywhere on Earth—gardens, forests, deserts, houses, and even dark caves. Some spend their days hiding in tall grass or under rocks. Others perch high in trees, wait in underground burrows, or hang from **webs** stretched between branches. You can find spiders on every continent except Antarctica.

FROM EGG TO SPIDER

A mother spider lays her eggs in a **silk** egg sac. When the eggs hatch, tiny **spiderlings** emerge and often stay close together at first. As they grow, young spiders molt, shedding their old skin each time their bodies become too tight. Eventually they reach adulthood, when they can build webs, hunt prey, and produce eggs of their own.



HOW SPIDERS COMMUNICATE

Spiders communicate without making sounds. Instead, they rely on movement and touch. Many spiders sense **vibrations** on their webs—each vibration can tell them whether something is prey, a mate, or danger.



WHAT SPIDERS EAT

Spiders are **carnivores** and talented hunters. Most spiders eat insects such as flies, mosquitoes, moths, and beetles. Larger species may eat frogs, lizards, or even small birds. Web-spinning spiders trap their prey in sticky **silk**, while hunting spiders chase, stalk, or **pounce** on their meals instead of using webs.





LIFE ON THE WEB

Many spiders spend much of their lives on webs. They spin webs using silk from their **spinnerets**. Orb webs look like round wheels with spokes. Sheet webs are flat and blanket-like. Funnel webs form tunnels where the spider hides and waits for prey.





KEEPING SAFE

Spiders stay safe in many clever ways. Some use **camouflage** to blend into bark, leaves, or rocks. Others warn **predators** with bright colors. Spiders can drop quickly from their webs by releasing silk, helping them escape danger. Their quick legs allow them to run and hide in an instant.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Spider silk is stronger than steel of the same thickness.
- A spider can make different types of silk for different purposes.
- Spiders do not have bones—they have **exoskeletons**.

QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Spiders are insects.
2. (True or False) All spiders spin webs.
3. (True or False) Spiders have eight legs.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Spiders make silk.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Spiders are scary creatures.
6. What do spiders eat?
7. How do spiders communicate?
8. What are spinnerets?
9. Where do mother spiders keep their eggs?
10. How do web-spinning spiders find food?



ANSWERS

1. False. Spiders are not insects—they are arachnids.
2. False. Some spiders do not make webs. They hunt by running or jumping.
3. True. Every spider has eight legs.
4. It is a fact that spiders make silk.
5. Whether spiders are scary is an opinion.
6. Spiders eat insects and sometimes larger animals.
7. They communicate using vibrations, movements, and colors.
8. Spinnerets are the organs that produce silk.
9. Mother spiders keep their eggs inside a silk egg sac.
10. They wait in their webs. When an insect gets stuck, the spider feels the web shake and comes to catch it.



GLOSSARY

Arachnid – an animal with eight legs and two body parts

Carnivore – an animal that eats meat

Predator – an animal that hunts and eats other animals

Spiderling – a baby spider

Pounce – to jump or move quickly to catch something

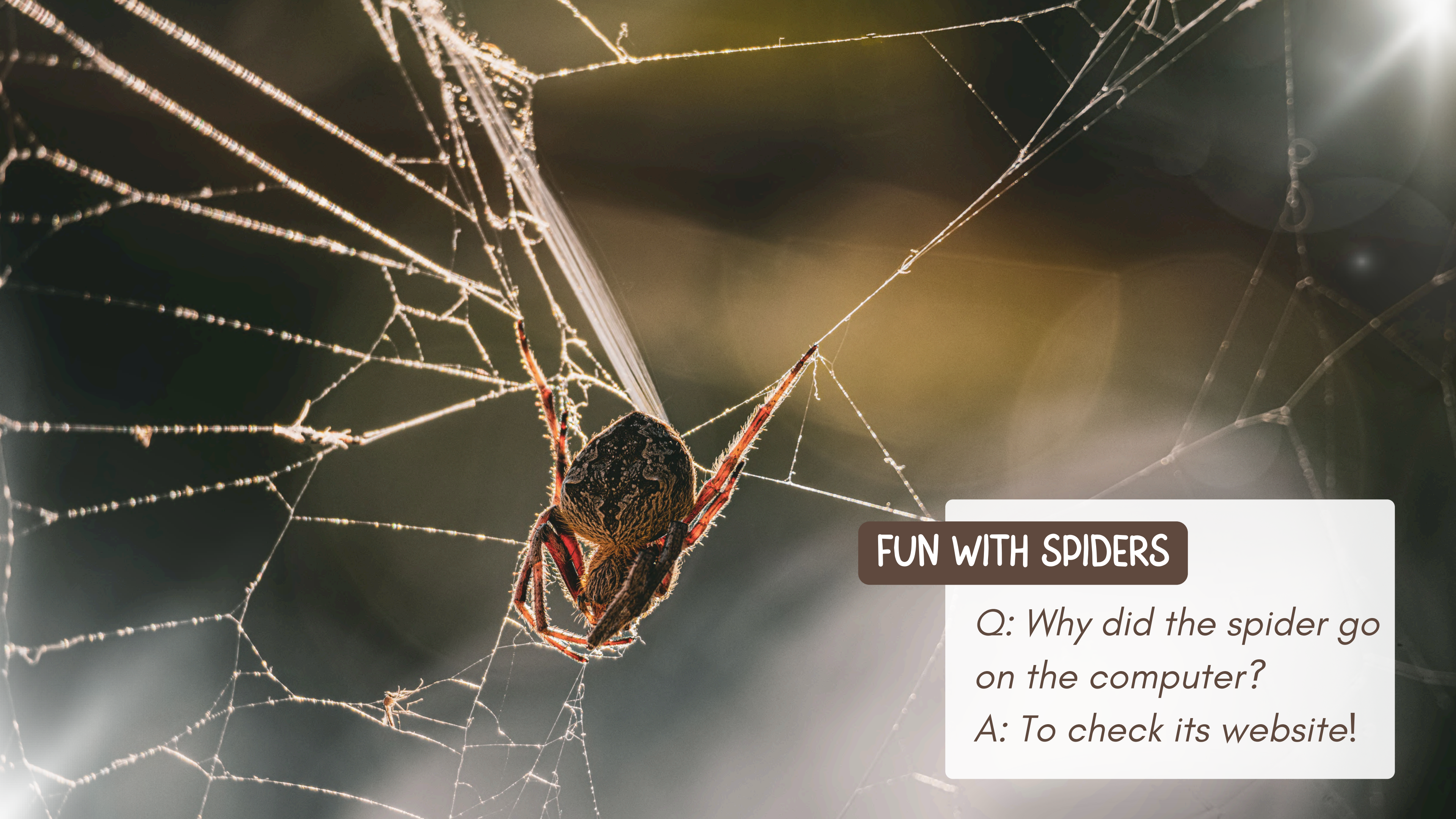
Exoskeleton – a hard outer covering that supports and protects an animal

Silk – a strong thread made by spiders

Spinneret – the body part spiders use to make silk

Web – a silk structure spiders make to catch prey

Vibration – a movement or shaking that can be felt or sensed



FUN WITH SPIDERS

Q: Why did the spider go on the computer?

A: To check its website!