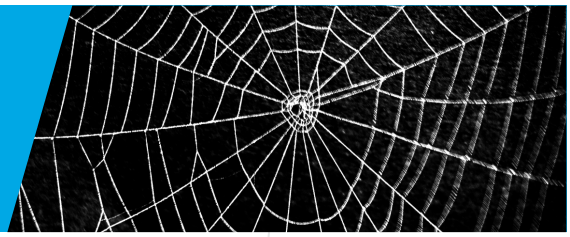
CURIOSITY AT HOME

SPIDER SILK HUNT



All spiders produce silk, but they do it for very different reasons. Some spiders make webs to catch food, some use silk to build egg sacs, and some use silk to travel. Search for spider silk in this activity.

MATERIALS

- Paper or science notebook
- Pencil
- Flashlight (optional)
- Ruler or tape measure

PROCEDURE

- Look around to find spider silk. The flashlight can help you look into corners. Sometimes spider silk is shiny and reflects the light making it easier to see.
- Look around inside and outside.
- Be sure not to disturb any spiders that you find.
- Bonus if you find a spider making a web!

Experiment continued on next page...

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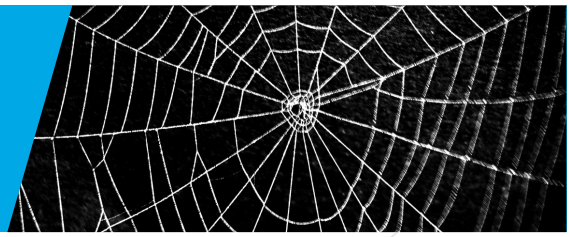

K–2 GRADE EXPLORATION

Here are some questions you can explore together.

- Where did you find the most spider silk?
- What was the found silk shaped like?
- Gently touch a part of the silk. Was it sticky or not sticky? Touch another part of the silk you found. Is all the silk the same level of stickiness?

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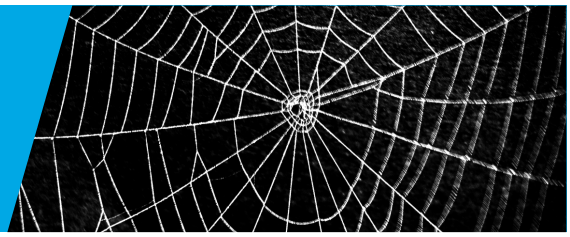
CURIOSITY AT HOME

SPIDER SILK HUNT



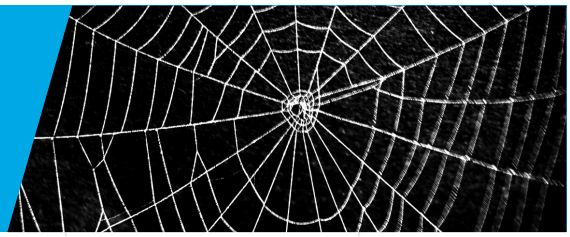
3–5 GRADE EXPLORATION

Explore the following questions and write your observations in your science notebook

- Where did you find the most spider silk?
- What did it look like? Draw what you found in your notebook.
- From its shape, could you tell if the silk was for catching prey, protecting eggs, or some other purpose?
- Gently touch a part of the silk. Was it sticky or not sticky? Touch another part of the silk you found. Is all the silk the same level of stickiness?

CURIOSITY AT HOME

SPIDER SILK HUNT



6–8 GRADE EXPLORATION

Explore the following questions and write your observations in your science notebook

- Where did you find the most spider silk?
- What did it look like? Draw it in your notebook.
- From its shape, could you tell if it was for catching prey, protecting eggs, or some other purpose?
- Measure your spider web. Make a prediction about how big the spider was that spun that web. (You can use your prior knowledge about spiders you've seen before if you don't see the spider.)
- If you could spin a web, how big would your web be, using the same ratio as the web and spider you found?

For example, if your web you found was 10" across, the spider is 0.5", and you are 56" tall, your equation would look like this:

$$\frac{0.5"}{10"} = \frac{56"}{x}$$

How big would **your** web be?

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