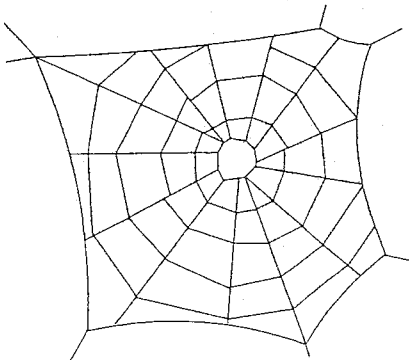


8: Introducing ... Members of the Spider Family

Jessica is studying spiders in her science class. She has learned that there are two main groups of spiders. Web builders build webs to catch their food. Wandering spiders hunt for their food on the ground. The following passage, taken from her textbook, discusses some different kinds of spiders.

Water Spiders: As their name suggests, water spiders live in ponds and streams. These web builders live in many parts of Europe. They actually swim and live under the water. Like all animals, water spiders must have air to breathe. How do they breathe under the water? They collect air bubbles on the water's surface and place them inside their underwater webs. In this way, water spiders can store enough air to last for several hours. Water spiders pose no danger to people since their diet consists mainly of water insects and fish.

Jumping Spiders: Jumping spiders are wandering spiders that live in many places around the world. They earned their name because of their unique hunting method. Jumping spiders first spin a line of silk and then attach it to wherever they happen to be. When they spot their dinner, they leap quickly and **pounce** on their prey. If they happen to "miss," they remain safe and sound on the end of the silk line. If they are "on target," they finish the job with poison from their fangs.



Black Widow Spiders: Black widow spiders live in many parts of the world. They are web builders that like to make their homes in cool, dark places. Not the best of housekeepers, black widow spiders create "messy" webs with **patternless** shapes. Unfortunate insects become **entangled** in the webs and cannot escape.

Normally shy creatures, black widow spiders try to stay away from people. They usually attack only to defend their eggs. However, many people believe that black widow spiders pose serious danger to people. The female's **venom** is poisonous to humans, but rarely causes death. Usual reactions to a black widow's bite include dizziness, cramps, and nausea. There is an antidote for this spider's poison that relieves the symptoms. Anyone bitten by a black widow spider should seek medical treatment immediately.

Tarantulas: There are more than 300 different kinds of tarantulas in the world. They like to live alone and can survive to be more than 20 years old. They are probably best known for their rather "hairy" appearance and large size. In fact, some types are large enough to eat small snakes, frogs, lizards, and birds. Despite their appearance and size, though, tarantulas are usually calm around people and pose little threat to them. They will only attack people if they feel threatened. A tarantula's bite feels something like a bee or wasp sting. Its hair can also irritate a person's skin.

A female tarantula has an interesting way of taking care of her eggs. She lays them in an egg case that may hold more than 100 eggs. She then carries the egg case on her front legs until the **spiderlings** hatch. This usually takes two to three weeks.

Structural Cues (I.A)

1. In which word do the letters *less* mean the same as in the word **patternless**?
- A Lesson
 - B Fruitless
 - C Blessings
 - D Unless

Structural Cues (I.A)

2. In which word do the letters *en* mean the same as in the word **entangled**?
- A Envious
 - B Envelope
 - C Enemy
 - D Enshrine

Context Clues (I.B)

3. In this passage, the word **pounce** means—
- A eat
 - B hide
 - C rely
 - D jump

Synonyms/Antonyms (I.D)

4. Which word in the passage is an **ANTONYM** for **venom**?
- A Poison
 - B Medicine
 - C Antidote
 - D Symptom

Structural Cues (I.A)

5. What do the letters *ling* mean in the word **spiderlings**?
- A Egg
 - B Young
 - C Hatched
 - D Female

Facts/Details (II.A)

6. Which type of spider spins a messy, patternless web?
- A Water spider
 - B Jumping spider
 - C Black widow spider
 - D Tarantula

Sequential Order (II.B)

7. Before hunting for its food, a jumping spider—
- A creates an underwater web
 - B uses a silk line to attach to its location
 - C collects poison in its fangs
 - D leaps in front of its prey

Main Idea (III.A)

8. This passage is mostly about—
- A the characteristics and habits of different kinds of spiders
 - B the differences between web builders and wandering spiders
 - C how spiders build their webs
 - D the dangers spiders pose to people

Cause/Effect (IV.A)

9. Water spiders can live underwater because they—
- A have special body parts that let them breathe under the water
 - B jump out of the water to get air
 - C leave the water regularly to hunt for food
 - D carry air from the surface and store it in their webs

Connect/Compare/Contrast (IV.C)

10. Of the four kinds of spiders discussed in this passage, which is the only one to pose a real threat to people?
- A Water spider
 - B Jumping spider
 - C Black widow spider
 - D Tarantula

Inferences (V.A)

11. Tarantulas may seem threatening to people because of their—
- A hunting habits
 - B appearance and size
 - C violent behavior
 - D unusual webs

Generalizations (V.C)

12. As hunters, jumping spiders appear to be—
- A careless
 - B unsuccessful
 - C comical
 - D effective

Fact/Opinion (VI.A)

13. Which is an OPINION expressed in this passage?
- A A water spider's diet consists mainly of insects and fish.
 - B Some tarantulas are large enough to eat snakes and frogs.
 - C Black widow spiders are not the best housekeepers.
 - D A female tarantula carries her eggs in an egg case.

Author's Purpose (VI.B)

14. The author probably wrote this passage in order to—
- A compare and contrast different kinds of spiders for readers
 - B show the dangers that spiders pose for people
 - C encourage readers to protect each spider's habitat
 - D show why some spiders make good pets

Connect/Compare/Contrast (IV.C)

15. Choose two of the spiders described in this passage. How are the two spiders the same? How are they different? Record your ideas on the Venn diagram below.

