



# pooky Spiders



# Amazing facts about Arachnids



Designed for Miss. Stone's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class

[http://www.photo.net/photodb/photo?photo\\_id=368713](http://www.photo.net/photodb/photo?photo_id=368713)

## Introduction

Did you know that some spiders are as big as your face?...Some can live for 28 years?...Scorpions are *arachnids* too?

Discover amazing facts about spiders, how they catch their food, what they eat, where they live, and how they defend themselves.



**! So far, scientists have identified 30,000 different types of spiders**

**I didn't know that...**

**Spiders have 8 legs.**

**Spiders have 4 pairs of legs. So do scorpions, mites, and the other members of the *arachnid* family. This makes *arachnids* different from *insects*, which have 6 legs.**



**! Many insects can fly, but arachnids can't**

**! Spiders sometimes lose a leg when they shed their skin**

I didn't know that...

Spiders have 8 eyes.

These are on the front of their head. In spite, of this, many of them can't see very well. They feel their way around with their legs.



**! A spider sheds its skin about ten times as it grows**



**! People have been known to use spiders' webs as fishing nets.**

**I didn't know  
that...**

**Spiders make a new  
web every day.**

Spiders are always making new webs because their old ones break easily and lose their stickiness. A web traps food for the spider so it is essential for survival and needs to be in perfect order.



[http://www.americanarachnology.org/gallery\\_entrance.html](http://www.americanarachnology.org/gallery_entrance.html)



**! The silk in a spiders' web could stretch the length of a tennis court.**

**! Spider silk is stronger than steel wire of the same thickness.**

I didn't know that...

Some spiders live underwater.

Water spiders live in lakes and ponds, but they can't breathe underwater. They spin themselves a bell-shaped web and keep it filled with air by collecting bubbles from the surface.

**! Some spiders lie in wait in their webs, hoping to catch tadpoles.**



**! Trapdoor spiders dig out their tunnels with their jaws.**

I didn't know  
that...

Some spiders jump  
through trapdoors.

Trapdoor spiders  
dig a burrow in the  
ground, cover it  
with a trapdoor,  
and hide inside.  
Then they pounce  
on any creature  
that passes.



<http://www.seghea.com/pat/art/bugs/bugth1.html>

**! The bolas spider is named after the bolas, a South American lasso.**



**! Unlike many spiders, hunting spiders have very sharp eyesight.**

I didn't know that...

Some spiders spit.

Spitting spiders don't use webs. Instead, they make a sticky gum, which they fire out through their fangs. This completely covers an insect and sticks it to the spot.



**! Wolf spiders eat up to 15 insects on a good hunting day.**

**! Most spiders are poisonous- at least to insects.**

I didn't know that...

Some spiders have fangs.

Like snakes, spiders use poison to defend themselves and kill their prey. A spider jabs its fangs into its victim and holds on while the poison pumps into the prey.



**! A spider bite always leaves two little holes in the skin.**



**! House spiders often stick their nests to door and window frames.**

I didn't know that...

Spiders have nurseries.

Just before her eggs hatch, the nursery-web spider spins a tent of silk. It's a nursery, where tiny baby spiders stay safe and sound, while their mother keeps guard nearby.



<http://www.sphoto.com/mspiders.html>

<http://www.sphoto.com/landscape.html>



**! After they have hatched, baby spiders still need a parents' protection.**

I didn't know  
that...

Some spiders can  
change color.

Crab spiders are  
masters of disguise  
and can match their  
color to their  
surroundings. This  
clever trick keeps  
them hidden inside  
flowers, where  
other spiders would  
be more easily  
seen



**! Spiders that hunt on the ground need good *camouflage*.**



**! Chinese farmers build winter shelters for spiders in their fields.**

I didn't know that...

**Wasps attack spiders.**

The female tarantula hawk wasp feeds her babies tarantulas. She attacks, stings, and paralyzes these huge spiders, then drags them into a hole and lays an egg on them.



**! A golden-wheeling spider escapes by cartwheeling down sand dunes.**



<http://www.desertusa.com/mag01/sep/papr/thawk.html>

<http://www.wmspear.com/News/hawkwasp.html>

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