

Tuesday 21st September 2021

LO: Shared reading

SPINNERS

Introduction

Humans have been interested in spiders for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. Some people see them as horrible and scary. Others see these animals as a sign of good luck. Whether you like them or not, spiders are very useful members of the animal kingdom, which help the balance of nature by eating lots of insects.

The Spider Web

Each kind of web-building spider builds its own kind of web. However, not all spiders spin webs, but they can all make silk. They spin their silk through organs called spinnerets. The silk starts as a sticky liquid, which hardens to form a very light but very strong thread.

If you make a steel thread as fine as a thread of a spider silk, the silk would be just as strong as the steel.

The moment a spider hatches from its egg, it knows how to spin a certain pattern by instinct.

In the next section, you can see how one garden spider spins its web.

How a spider spins a web

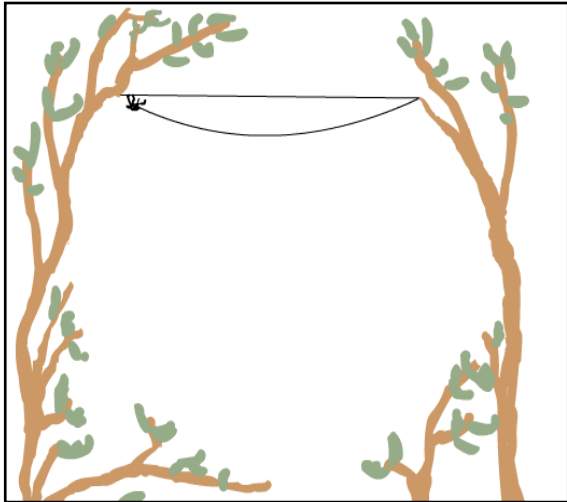
It takes a spider about an hour to spin an orb web. The fine silk thread looks delicate but it can hold 1,000 times the spider's own weight!

After finishing its web, the spider usually waits out of sight with one leg on a 'signal thread'. When an insect lands in the web, the thread shakes. Instantly, the spider pounces.

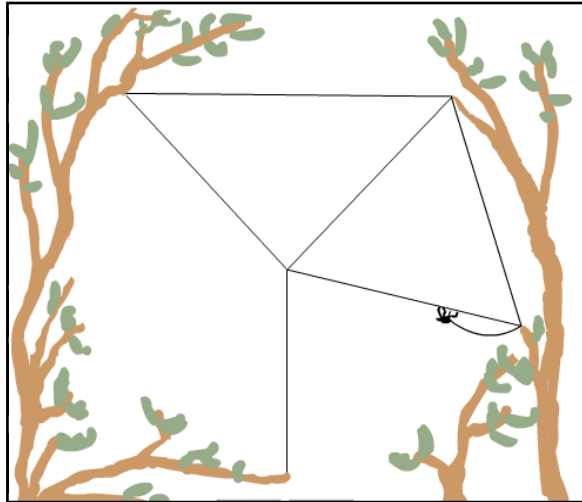
Parts of the orb are made of a special sticky silk, so insects can't escape before the spider arrives.



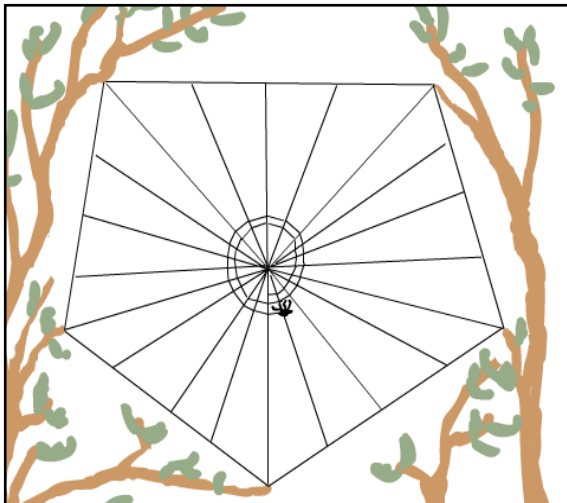
Glossary	
<i>orb</i>	rounded shape
<i>organ</i>	part of the body
<i>instinct</i>	by nature/not learnt
<i>signal</i>	a message



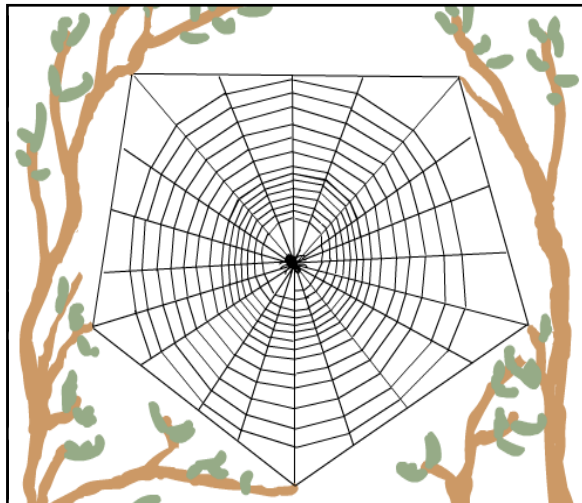
Firstly, the spider spins a thread between two supports – helped, perhaps, by a breeze that carries the thread. Then it spins another and dangles down from it.



Secondly, it drops a new thread to make a Y-shape, and spins more threads from the centre to the edge.



Then, the spider spins round and round in a spiral, working slowly out from the middle.



Finally, it spirals back into the centre. The web is then ready for the spider to catch its prey.

Extract taken from Amazing Spiders © Dorling Kindersley

Retrieval

1. You can find out how a garden spider spins a web. It takes the spider about

one day

1000 minutes

one hour

three hours

2. To spin a web. Spiders know how to spin their webs and catch flies

by learning
from
their mothers

by watching
other spiders

by instinct

by practising
a lot

3. When it has finished its web, the spider

waits in the centre
of the web

starts making
another web

has a rest

hides itself

Vocabulary

4. Write down **two** facts from the text which show that spiders' silk is very strong.
5. *Instantly, the spider pounces.* What does the word pounces mean?

Inference

8. In reality, spiders **cannot** pounce or jump on the web.

Why, then, do you think the writer chose to use the word **pounces** in the last paragraph?

9. Look at the four boxes showing you how a spider spins a web.

How do you know the order in which to follow the information?

Write down **two** ways.