

Post-Field Trip Activities: Super Spiders

Overview

Time: 20 Minutes

Materials:

- Ball of string or yarn

Purpose Statement:

During the Super Spiders field trip a lot of exciting and new facts were covered. This activity helps students recall their new fun facts by sharing them with the group in an interesting and different way.

Lesson Steps:

Creating the Web

- Sit with the students in a big circle.
- Start by holding the ball of yarn or string and say something new and interesting you learned during the field trip. After saying your new favorite fun fact, pass the ball of yarn to a student sitting in the circle BUT hold on to the loose end of the yarn. Once the student has caught the ball you will be connected to them via a line of yarn.
- The student who has caught the yarn will then say their favorite fun fact they learned about spiders during the field trip. They will hold on to the line of yarn in front of them and will pass the ball of yarn to someone else sitting in the circle.
- The new holder of the yarn ball will share their fun fact and pass on the yarn. The process will repeat until all students have gone and a spider web pattern has appeared in the middle of the circle.

Walking through the Web

- Each student will have a chance to walk through the web, tip toeing and big stepping to not trip or touch the yarn so the spider can't sense them!
- One way to decide who gets to go next to walk through the web is to play Spider Trivia. Ask a question from the list on the following page and whoever raises their hand first and can give a correct answer gets to walk through the web.
- When a student gets up to walk through the web they hand their portion of the web to their neighbor. They then try to walk through the web without tripping the yarn. When they make it to the other side they should return to their seat and take back their portion of the web from their neighbor.

Lesson Steps



Post-Field Trip Activities: Super Spiders



Spider Trivia Questions & Answers

Question: Americans swallow 8 spiders a year in their sleep!

Answer: False. Spiders don't like to hang out in places where they can't find food. There's not a lot of food for them in your bed!

Question: Daddy long legs are the most poisonous spiders out there but they don't have teeth large enough to bite us!

Answer: False. Daddy long legs ARE arachnids but they are NOT spiders. Daddy long legs are not even venomous at all, they lack fangs and can't bite. So it is true that they can't bite us but it is not true that they have very dangerous venom.

Question: Spiders don't stick to their own webs because they have special oils in their feet.

Answer: False. Spiders spin a variety of different types of silk and not all kinds are sticky. They know where to step or not step when they walk across their webs.

Question: Spider's blood is blue in color.

Answer: True. Spider blood is called hemolymph and it is pale blue in color.

Question: Spider silk is stronger than kevlar, which is used in bulletproof vests.

Answer: True.

Question: There is no reason to study spider silk.

Answer: False, scientists and engineers all over the world are looking at spider silk to learn more about how humans can make smarter, stronger materials.

Question: All spiders make geometric or circular webs.

Answer: False. All spiders can make silk but not all make webs that are geometric or circular. Some spiders make funnel shaped webs or webs that use trip wires to catch prey.

Question: All spider webs are designed to catch prey.

Answer: False. For example, tarantulas lay silk down in their burrows to make a softer home and to sense approaching prey.

Question: Female black widows ALWAYS kill the males after mating.

Answer: False. Sometimes males will quickly get away before being eaten.

Question: Arachnid is just a fancy way of saying "spider."

Answer: False. Spiders are a type of arachnid. Ticks and scorpions are also arachnids.

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Spider Trivia Questions

Spider Trivia Questions & Answers

Question: The only spiders that are venomous are ones that are brightly colored.

Answer: False. While color is often a good indicator of whether something is poisonous or venomous or not, it is not always the case.

Question: All spiders are venomous.

Answer: True. All spiders produce venom, which they use to catch prey and defend themselves. Not all venom though is strong enough to hurt or kill a human.

Question: All spiders have two eyes, just like humans.

Answer: False. Most spiders have eight eyes, some have twelve and some have none! Spiders that don't have eyes live deep in caves where light doesn't penetrate. Why bother having eyes if there is no light to see by?

Question: There is only one kind of spider silk.

Answer: False. Spiders can make nine different types of silk, each type of silk has a different purpose. Some types of silk are used for wrapping up and protecting eggs, some are for keeping the prey from escaping once it is caught and some are for web making.

Question: All spiders can make silk.

Answer: True. The big difference comes in how they use that silk.

Question: There is a difference between venom and poison.

Answer: True. Venom is something toxic that is injected into you via a fang or stinger. Poison is something toxic that you eat. Spiders are venomous but not poisonous.

Question: Spiders are insects.

Answer: False. Spiders are arachnids. Insects have 6 legs and 3 body segments. Arachnids have 8 legs and 2 body segments.