

Vocabulary – Spiders

spider	a type of creature that has no backbone, eight legs, two main body parts, poison glands and can make silk for nests or webs
abdomen	the back part of a spider's body that contains the heart, lungs, liver and spinnerets
arachnid	the class of animals that spiders belong to; creature that has eight legs, two body parts and no backbone, wings or antennae; scorpions, ticks and mites are also arachnids
arachnophobia	a fear of spiders or other arachnids
cephalothorax	the front part of a spider's body that contains the eyes, mouth parts and legs
chelicerae	the mouthpart (jaws) on the head of spiders that help them with grabbing and catching food
cobweb	an old tangled spider's web that has collected dust and dirt

dragline	long silk thread that trails behind and is attached to a spider
egg sac	a sac made of silk that holds spider eggs until they hatch; female spiders can lay up to 3,000 eggs in an egg sac
exoskeleton	the outside of a spider that helps to support and protect its body
eyes	the part of a spider that allows it to see; most spiders have four sets of eyes (one main set and three smaller pairs), but few of them see very well
fangs	the part of the spider used to inject venom into prey
invertebrate	a creature without a backbone; spiders are invertebrates
legs	the jointed parts of a spider that allow it to walk and climb; all spiders have four sets (eight) legs - two facing front and two facing back; tiny hairs on the legs pick up vibrations and smells from the air; at the end of the legs are tiny claws

molt	this happens when a young spider grows and its exoskeleton becomes too tight; the exoskeleton cracks open and the spider sheds it
orb web	a common type of spider web that is circular
pedicel	a spider's "waist" which separates the cephalothorax from the abdomen
pedipalps	two sensory feelers that look like very short legs; also called palps
silk	a fine threadlike material made by a spider to create webs, move about or catch prey; spiders have different kinds of silk for different purposes
spiderling	a baby spider
spinnerets	openings on the underside and back of a spider's abdomen where silk is released

venom

poison that spiders use to paralyze prey;
comes out of a spider's fangs

web

an object created by the spider out of its
silk; serves as the spider's "home"; the
stickiness of the silk in the web helps to
catch prey that gets caught in the web;
there are several different types of webs