

Animal Facts:

Spiders

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Spiders are small scurrying creatures which, unlike insects, have eight legs not six, and bodies with two parts not three.



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Spiders belong to a group of 70,000 creatures called arachnids, which also includes scorpions, mites and ticks.



Spiders live in nooks and crannies almost everywhere in the world, especially where there is vegetation to feed tiny creatures.



Spiders are hunters and most of them feed mainly on insects. Despite their name, bird eating spiders rarely eat birds, preferring lizards and small rodents such as mice.



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Spiders have eight eyes, but most have poor eyesight and hunt by feeling vibrations with their legs.



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Many spiders catch their prey by weaving silken nets called webs. Some webs are simple, and some are elaborate and round. Spider's webs are sticky to trap insects.



The Australian trapdoor spider ambushes its prey from a burrow with a camouflaged entrance flap.



Most spiders have a poisonous bite which they use to stun or kill their prey. Tarantulas and sun spiders crush their victims with their powerful jaws.



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The bite of black widow, redback and funnel web spiders is so poisonous that it can kill humans.



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Female black
widow spiders
eat their mates
after mating.

