IN BRIEF

The Spider Falls to Earth is a humorous story about a greedy and selfish creature who gets into trouble when he visits our world. The Spider inspired this pack, which is full of facts and activities about his descendants: spiders and other arachnids!



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- The **Storytime Glossary** is a handy reference that provides definitions for unusual words or phrases found in this month's issue of ***Storytime***. When the class is reading a story from the magazine, you could ask every pupil to note down a word they don't know the meaning of. After the reading session is finished, the class could share their words and work together to find out what they mean and how to use them.

- This month's **Class Discussion Sheet** asks pupils what they know about the strange, fascinating and sometimes scary creatures known as *spiders!* Can they think of why having spiders around might be *good* for humans and the planet?

- The extract from the story on the **Reading Comprehension Sheet** challenges students to find adjectives related to temperature. Can they think of any other words that can be used to describe how hot or cold things are?

- We've jumbled up the events in the Spider's tale on the **Story Sequencing Sheet** – your pupils should number the sections to show the order they *should* be read in. This will test their understanding of the story, and they can refer back to the legend if they need clues!

- The **Storyboard** page features some spectacular art from the legend of the Spider. Students should retell his story in their own words underneath the pictures.

Continued on page 2...

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- Halloween is coming, which means it's a perfect time to write a spooky spider tale! The **Write a Spider Story!** sheet offers two prompts to spark your pupils' creativity. They should select the prompt they like best and fill in the spaces using their imaginations before writing out their tale in full.

- The **What Spiders, Do, Have and Are** sheet challenges students to categorise the words on the page. If they struggle with a word, ask them to use it in a sentence. For example, asking if spiders *do* spinnerets, *are* spinnerets or *have* spinnerets might help them to work out where to put 'spinneret'...

- One of the fun parts of reading a story is working out *why* characters do certain things. That's the idea behind the **Understanding the Spider's Tale** page. It poses interesting questions about why things turned out the way they did in the story – what do your students think?

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- What do your pupils know about spiders? These creatures are amazing in many different ways, as your class will discover when they read the **All About Spiders!** fact page. We hope that it will make your students look at our eight-legged friends in a different way and maybe do their own spider-centric research. There is even a space on the page for writing an amazing spider-fact they uncovered.

- Spiders and other arachnids are often mistaken for insects, but the **Insect or Arachnid?** page shows tells children how to tell the difference. They can then use their new knowledge to classify the various creepy-crawlies found on the sheet.

- One of the things that makes spiders special is their unique body structure. Your pupils should match the names and definitions with the parts on the diagram on the **Name the Body Parts!** sheet.

Continued on page 3...

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3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- Why do maths problems have to be arranged in a line? Why can't they be arranged like a spider web instead? That's the idea behind **Spider Web Sums!** Kids can go around the web, adding or subtracting numbers from the one in the middle. They'll never look at sums the same way again!

4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- Do your students need a cool and creative costume for Halloween? Then they should try the **Craft a Spider Hat!** activity! This page shows how they can make a fun piece of headwear that is full of personality. A QR code is provided for downloading a template sheet – children can print it out, cut out the shapes of the parts and trace them onto coloured card to craft the hat.

- Spiders come in all shapes, sizes and colours, and your students can make up their own cool creature on the **Complete the Spider!** worksheet. The cephalothorax and abdomen (front and back parts of the body) are already on the page, but they can add eyes, legs, patterns, colours and other details.

  Before the class does this activity, you could show them photos of different spiders from around the world to give them inspiration.

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

You can look up the meanings of words you don't know here!

Masha and the Bear (Page 6)

- **Stumbled across:** found by accident
- **Cottage:** small, simple house
- **Made up:** decided to be friendly
- **Railway line:** tracks for train
- **Rumbled:** said in a deep, growling way
- **Clambered:** climbed clumsily
- **Stretched:** became longer when pulled
- **Staggered:** walked unsteadily
- **Scrambled:** moved quickly but clumsily
- **Piggy-back ride:** ride on his back

The Acorn and the Pumpkin (Page 8)

- **Spade:** tool used for digging
- **Sty:** fenced area for pigs
- **Trough:** long, narrow container used for holding food or water for animals
- **Appreciation:** feeling of being grateful
- **Vines:** kinds of plants that climb up things
- **Crop:** amount of food grown
- **Brow:** forehead
- **Grazing:** eating
- **Paddock:** field where animals are kept
- **Grove:** small group of trees
- **Yipped:** gave a short, high-pitched bark
- **Thoughtfully:** in a way that shows he has been thinking carefully

When Gods Came to Dinner (Page 12)

- **Heights:** high parts
- **Palaces:** big houses for important people
- **Nectar:** sweet liquid found in flowers
- **Ambrosia:** a mixture of pollen and honey
- **Disguised themselves:** dressed up as someone else
- **Accomplished:** successfully done
- **Imposing:** big and impressive
- **Snapped:** said in a quick, angry way
- **Humble:** ordinary and not boastful
- **Beggars:** people who ask for money
- **Orchard:** group of fruit trees
- **Splendour:** impressive beauty

The Kingdom of the Ogres (Page 16)

- **Merchant ship:** ship used by traders
- **Clinging:** holding on tightly
- **Gestures:** movements of hand and body used to communicate something
- **Wok:** a kind of East Asian frying pan
- **Sizzled:** made a sound like 'sizzle'
- **Silky:** soft and smooth like silk
- **Embarrassed:** feeling awkward
- **Slab:** wide and thick object
- **Whirlwind:** fierce spinning wind
- **Unruly:** wild and hard to control
- **Volunteered:** freely chose to do something without being ordered to
- **Monarch:** king or queen

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY



An Extraordinary Day (Page 22)

- **Extraordinary:** amazing and very special
- **Dodged:** moved quickly to avoid a thing
- **Porridge:** food made out of boiled oats
- **Enchantment:** magic spell
- **Jingling:** ringing
- **Pulled up:** stopped
- **Chemistry:** the study of substances and how they react with each other
- **Demonstrated:** showed how something is done
- **Billowed:** puffed up
- **Pupil:** student at a school
- **Opposing team:** the team Alastair's team was playing against
- **Fiddling:** playing

See Wilma Run! (Page 29)

- **Lively:** active and full of energy
- **Pneumonia:** a lung disease
- **Champion:** winner
- **Polio:** a serious disease
- **Vaccines:** treatments that give protection against diseases
- **Siblings:** brothers and sisters
- **Strengthen:** make something stronger
- **Brace:** a device to support something
- **Imagining:** picturing in her mind
- **Confidence:** belief that she could do something
- **Ambassador:** person who represents a country
- **Desegregate:** end separation of races
- **Autobiography:** book about her own life

The Spider Falls to Earth (Page 34)

- **Constellations:** groups of stars
- **Demand:** ask in a forceful way
- **Lazed around:** relaxed and did nothing
- **Haughtily:** in a self-centred way
- **Mandibles:** mouth-parts of a spider
- **Parachute:** piece of fabric used to slow down a fall
- **Descended:** came down
- **Overawed:** impressed
- **Withered:** dried up and shrivelled
- **Barren:** unable to grow anything
- **Gurgled:** made a bubbling sound
- **Sloshed:** splashed around noisily
- **Epic:** huge and impressive

Donal and Conal (Page 40)

- **Cheerful:** happy and positive
- **Fond:** having a liking for
- **Enthusiastically:** with joy and energy
- **Stirs:** brings up
- **Ventured:** went
- **Glade:** open space in a forest
- **Majestic:** awesome and impressive
- **Peculiar:** strange
- **Grateful:** glad and thankful
- **Precious:** valuable
- **Instrument:** object for playing music on
- **Dell:** small valley in woods
- **Clamour:** loud noise
- **Sneered:** said in a nasty way
- **Chuckled:** laughed in a quiet way

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Spiders! These creepy-crawly creatures live alongside us, but how much do you know about them? These questions will help you share your knowledge with your classmates.

1. What do you know about spiders? What do they eat and where do they live?

2. What kind of animal are spiders? What make them different from similar creatures, like insects?

3. What words would you use to describe spiders, and how do you feel when you see one?

4. Can you think of some ways in which spiders are helpful to humans?

DESCRIBE A SPIDER!

Imagine that you have found a spider. Answer these questions about the imaginary creepy-crawly!

How big is it? _____

What words would you use to describe it?

_____

Where does it live?

_____

Draw your spider here!

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Find a *proper noun*, three temperature-related *adjectives* and *direct speech*!

"The people of the Spider's village had nothing to eat! All they had left was water, so this is what they served to the Spider for every meal. Sometimes it was hot, sometimes it was cold, and sometimes it was chilled with ice for dessert. The spider drank until his belly bulged, but it did not satisfy his hunger.

"There must be food *somewhere* in the world!" he grumbled. "I just have to go and find it!"

1. A *proper noun* is a noun that is used for a particular person, place or thing. Proper nouns start with a capital letter – what is the proper noun in this extract?

2. Can you spot three *adjectives* (describing words) that are used to talk about temperature in the third sentence?

3. *Direct speech* is when the things that a character says are spelled out exactly. Which punctuation marks are used to show direct speech in the extract?

SORT BY TEMPERATURE!

Can you arrange these six temperature adjectives in order, from coldest to hottest?

Warm Freezing
Cold Boiling Hot
Chilled Lukewarm

ANSWERS: 1. *Spider*. 2. *Hot, cold* and *chilled*. 3. Quotation marks (" and ").
Sort by Temperature!: *Freezing, cold, chilled, lukewarm, warm, hot, boiling.*

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

The events of Spider's story have been mythically mixed up! What order should you read them in? Number the sections from 1 to 11.

When another star asked the Spider to lower him to Earth, the creature snipped the thread the star was on and let him fall. ☐

The villagers were very hungry and had nothing to give the Spider but water. He decided to go on a quest to find things to eat! ☐

The humans were impressed by him and fed him fine food. However, Glooskap saw what the Spider was doing and decided to punish him. ☐

Sometimes, the stars took on human form and asked the Spider to lower them down to Earth on his silk. ☐

The villagers were furious when they found there was no food, and Glooskap punished the Spider by giving him eight eyes and legs! ☐

After that, the Spider made himself a parachute of silk. He landed near a human village and declared that he was now their chief. ☐

The Spider disobeyed the star and tasted some of the food during his journey. When he reached his village, the pots were empty. ☐

The creator sent the spirit of Famine to wither the village's crops and drive away the animals and fish. ☐

A very long time ago, Glooskap, the creator of the universe, told the Spider to weave his webs between the stars. ☐

The Spider found the star who had fallen to Earth! He gave the Spider pots of food, but told him not to open them before he got home. ☐

The Spider got sick of weaving webs in the sky and decided that he would rather become a chief on Earth and laze around all day. ☐

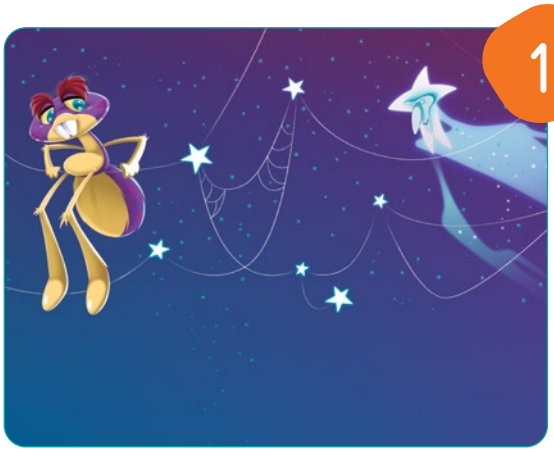
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STORYBOARD

Write about what happened to the Spider in your own words below. The pictures from the story will remind you about key events!

1



2



3



4



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WRITE A SPIDER STORY!

Spiders are amazing creatures, and we want you to write a Halloween story about one of them! Choose one of the two situations below, fill in the gaps with your own ideas, and then write your tale.

Once upon a time, there was a spider called _____ who lived in a dusty _____. One day, a _____ came to their home. "I'm going to scare them away!" thought the spider.

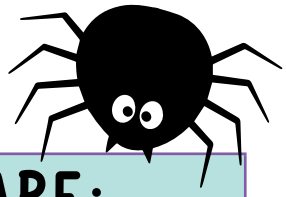
A spider called _____ lived in a silky _____. One day, their _____ came to visit. "What is something fun we can do together?" they asked.

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WHAT SPIDERS DO, HAVE AND ARE

Can you sort the words below into the right boxes?
Which ones are things that spiders *do*, *have* and *are*?



SPIDERS...

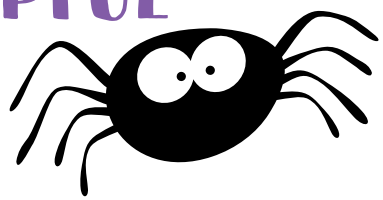
DO:	HAVE:	ARE:

ARACHNIDS SPIN HUNT FANGS

EIGHT LEGS HAIRY PREDATORS

SPINNERETS JUMP HELPFUL

VENOMOUS CLIMB



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ANSWERS: Spiders DO *spin, hunt, jump* and *climb*, HAVE *fangs, eight legs* and *spinnerets*, and ARE *arachnids, predators, hairy, helpful* and *venomous*.

UNDERSTANDING THE SPIDER'S TALE

The Spider in this month's story was a mischievous fellow who caused a lot of trouble. Can you answer these questions about what he did and why?

1. What did the stars ask the Spider to do?

2. Why did the Spider want to go to Earth?

3. What did the Spider tell the people when he arrived in the village?

4. What did Glooskap do to the Spider's village to teach him a lesson?

5. What did the Spider decide to do when there was no more food available?

6. Who did the Spider meet while looking for food, and what did he give him?

7. What mistake did the Spider make on his way back to the village?

8. What was the Spider's punishment from Glooskap for being greedy?

ANSWERS: 1. They asked him to make a silk ladder so they could visit Earth. 2. He wanted to be a chief and not have to work anymore. 3. He said he would be their new chief and asked for a big lodge and a feast. 4. He sent the spirit of Famine, who made all the crops and animals disappear. 5. He decided to leave the village and look for food elsewhere. 6. He met the fallen star, who gave him four sealed pots filled with food. 7. He opened the pots and tasted the food before reaching home. 8. He was cursed to have eight legs and eight eyes, shrink in size and have to hide in the dark.

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ALL ABOUT SPIDERS!

Here are the most important things you need to know about these strange and wonderful creatures!

Spiders are not insects!
They might look a bit like them, but they are actually part of a family of animals called *arachnids*.

Their skeleton is outside their body!
This is called an *exoskeleton*, and it forms a shell around a spider. When spiders get bigger, they crawl out of their old exoskeleton and grow a new, larger one!

HUNTER
All spiders get their food by hunting and eating other creatures. Some also dine on nectar, plant matter, or their own discarded exoskeletons!

BEWARE

(Almost) all spiders are venomous – they can inject poison into other creatures with their bites. However, very few spiders can actually harm humans.

All spiders produce silk, which is a very fine and sticky thread of protein. *There are more spider silk facts on the* ***Which Web is Which?*** *page!*

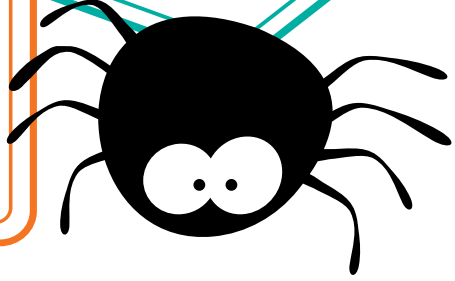
Scientists have found **more than 50,000 different species** of spiders, and more are being discovered all the time!

YUMMY!
They can be a tasty treat! Tarantulas are cooked and eaten in Cambodia and Venezuela.

They've been around for a long time!
The oldest known arachnid lived 420 million years ago!

Spiders can be found on all continents – except Antarctica!

Add your own spider fact here!



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INSECT OR ARACHNID?

Spiders belong to a family of animals called *arachnids*. Arachnids are often mistaken for insects, but they're definitely not the same! Here's how to tell them apart...



I am an ARACHNID!



I am an INSECT!

WHAT AM I?


LADYBIRD ☐


TARANTULA ☐


MITE ☐


BUTTERFLY ☐


MOTH ☐


BEE ☐


BLACK WIDOW ☐


KNITTER ☐

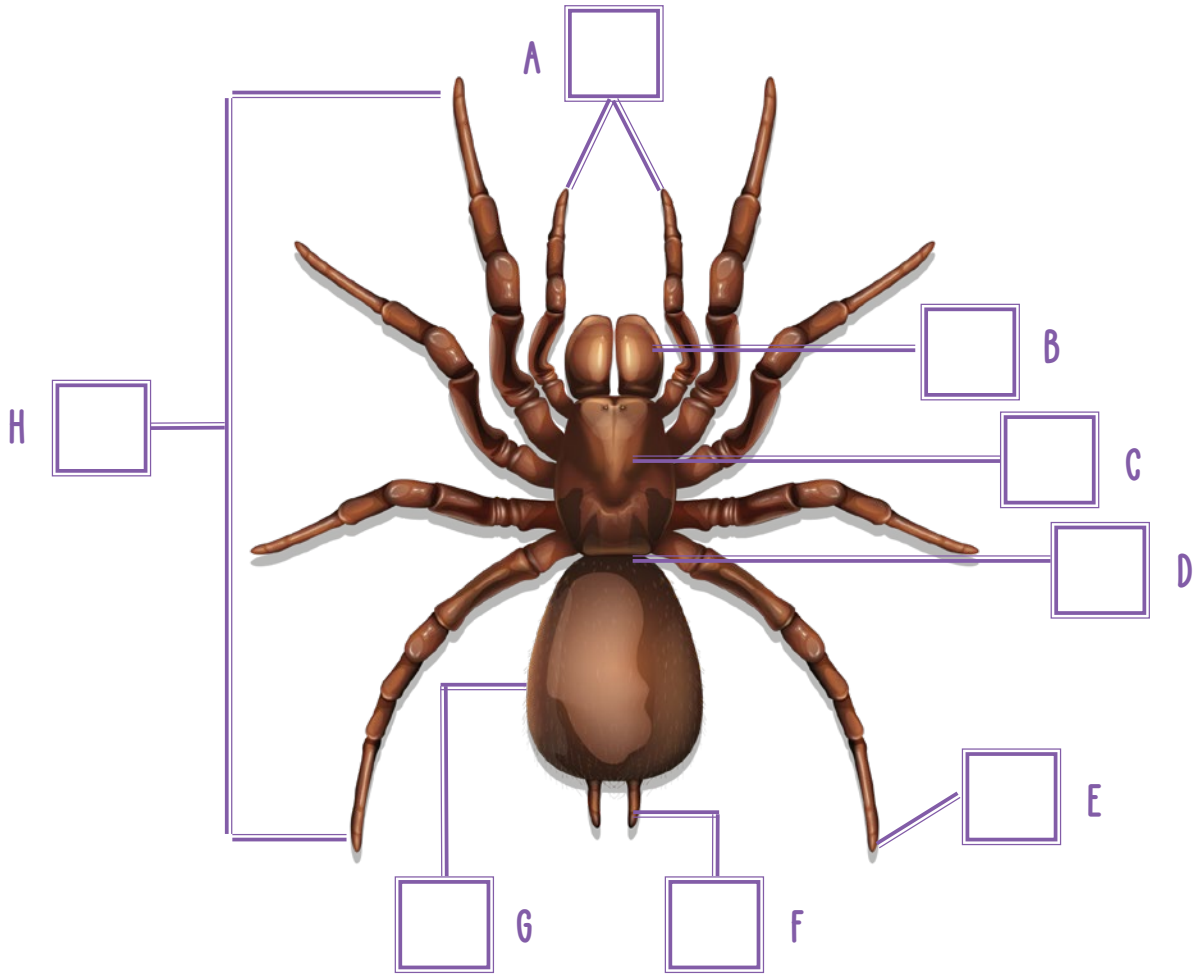
ANSWERS: From top: insect, arachnid, arachnid, insect, insect, insect, arachnid, arachnid.

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NAME THE BODY PARTS!

Spiders' bodies are quite different from our own! Can you match the words and definitions with the body parts on the spider below?



1. **LEGS:** I use these to run and jump!
2. **FANGS:** these inject venom into my prey!
3. **PEDICEL:** the area that joins my cephalothorax and abdomen!
4. **PEDIPALPS:** these look like little legs and help me hold my dinner!
5. **CLAW:** this helps me climb up walls!
6. **ABDOMEN:** the back part of my body!
7. **CEPHALOTHORAX:** the front section of my body!
8. **SPINNERETS:** silk comes out of these organs on my abdomen!

ANSWERS: A. 4, B. 2, C. 7, D. 3, E. 5, F. 8, G. 6, H. 1.

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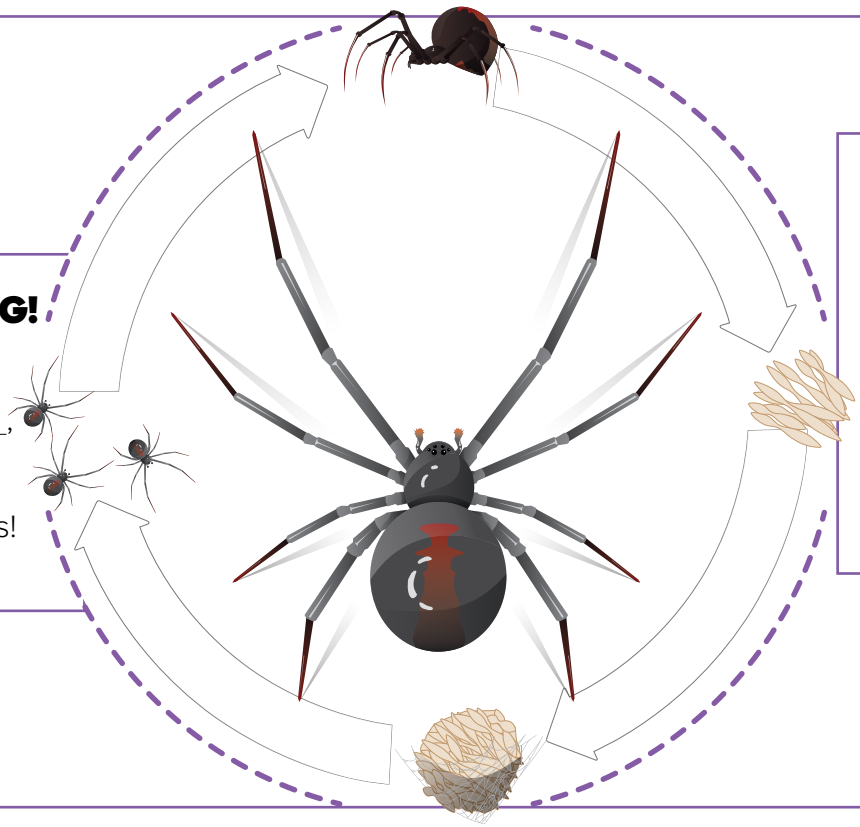
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THE SPIDER LIFE CYCLE

Here are descriptions of the different parts of a spider's life.
Fill in the gaps using the words at the bottom of the page!

ADULT SPIDER!

When the _____ grow up, they moult. This means they climb out of their old _____ and grow new, bigger ones.



EGG!

The _____ spider lays many eggs – some species lay up to _____ at a time!

SPIDERLING!

When the eggs _____, out pop lots of little spiderlings!

EGG SAC!

In most species, the mother _____ makes a silk _____ to protect the eggs and hangs it in her _____.

SPIDERLINGS
HATCH
MOTHER

WEB
EXOSKELETONS
COCOON

SPIDER
3000

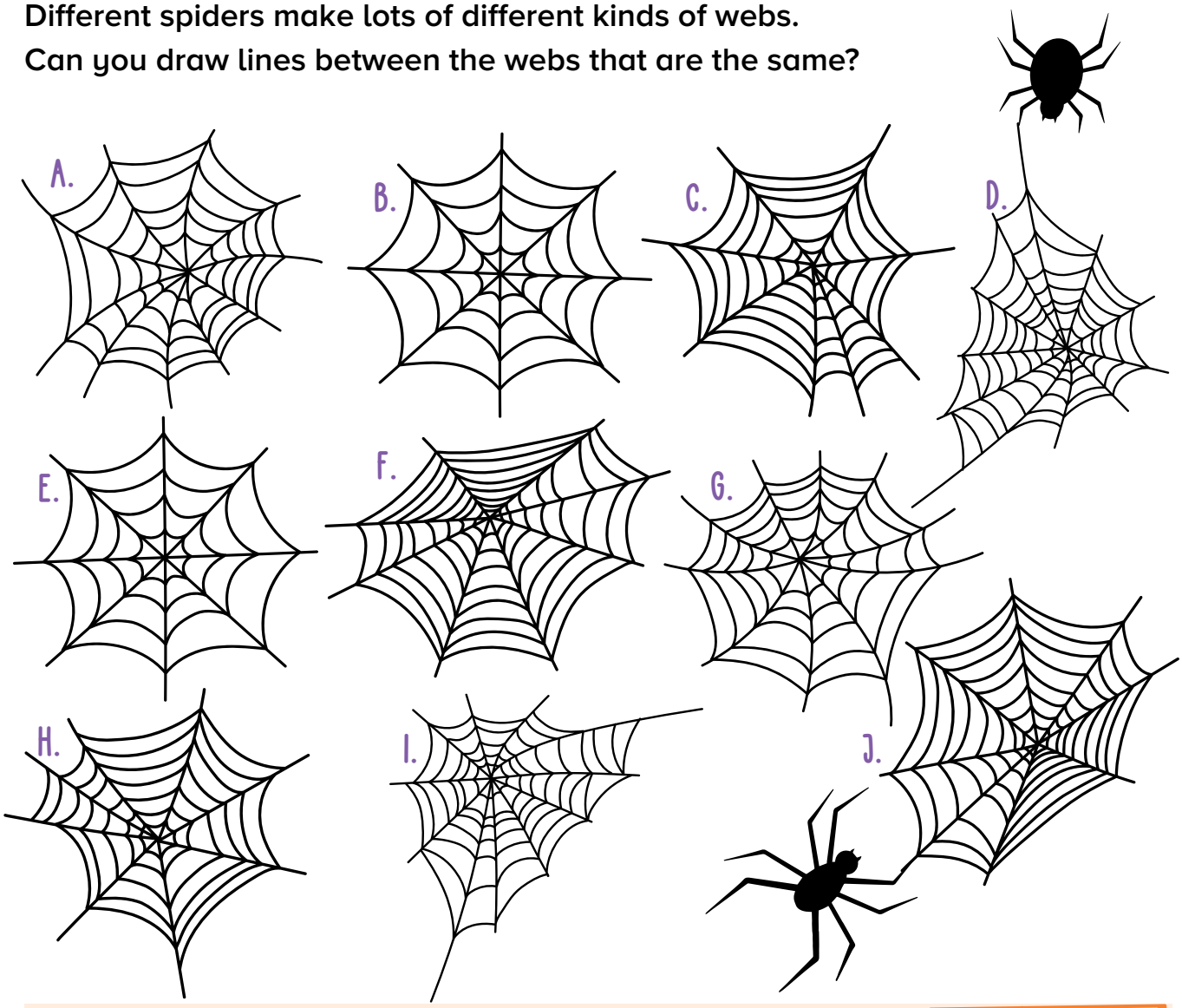
ANSWERS: ADULT SPIDER: spiderlings, exoskeletons. EGG: mother, 3000. EGG SAC: spider, cocoon, web. SPIDERLING: hatch

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WHICH WEB IS WHICH?

Different spiders make lots of different kinds of webs.
Can you draw lines between the webs that are the same?



SPIDER SILK FACTS!

- Spider silk is exceptionally light and strong! It is nearly as strong as steel, while weighing only one-fifth as much.
- A spider silk strand long enough to go all the way around the world would weigh only 2kg!
- Spider silk is very useful, but getting large amounts of it from spiders takes a lot of work. That's why scientists have used genetic engineering to create goats that produce 'spider silk' in their milk!

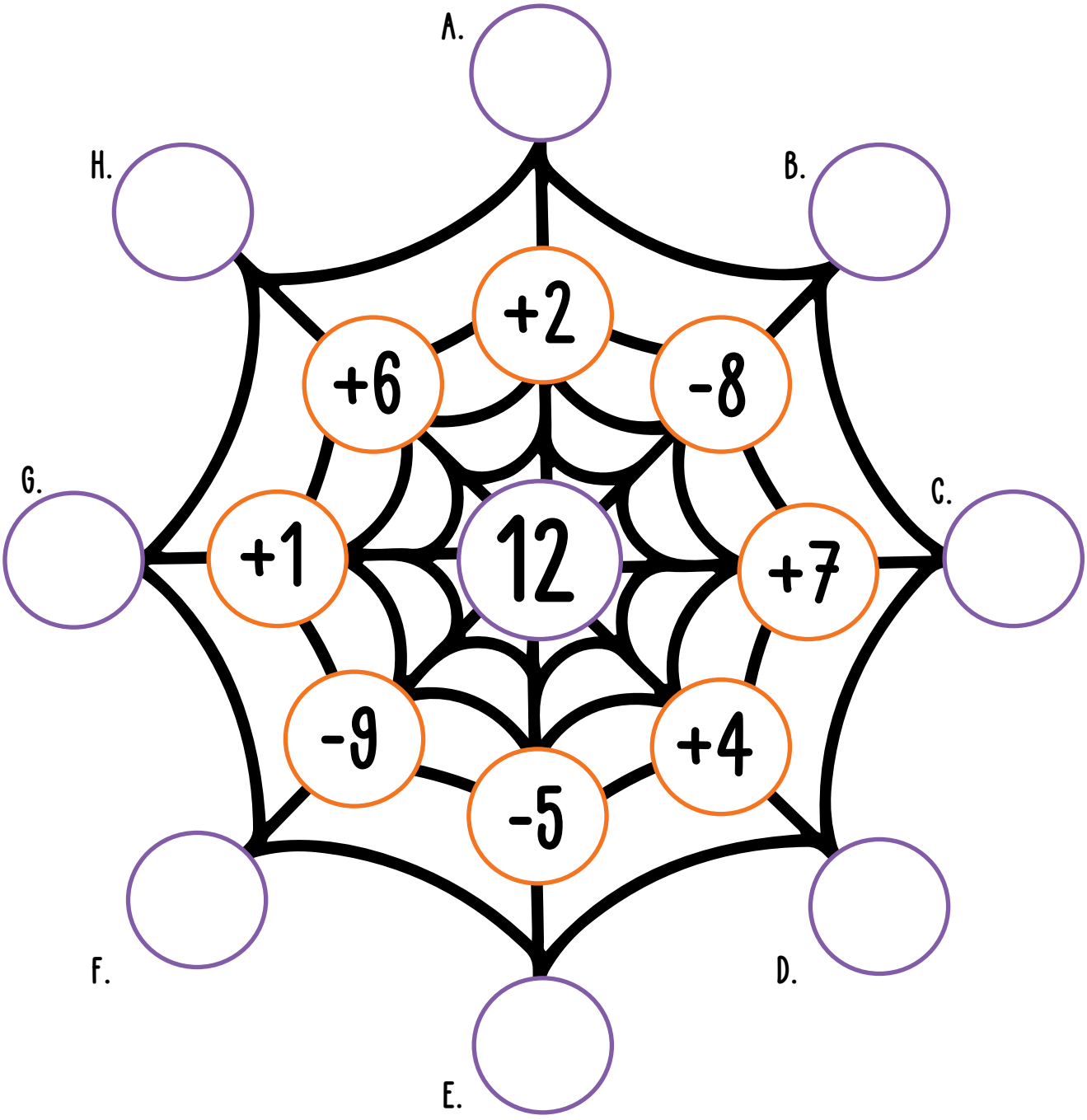
ANSWERS: A and G, B and E, C and H, D and I, F and J.

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SPIDER WEB SUMS

Work out which number should go in the circles around the edge of the web by adding or subtracting the numbers in each orange circle from the number in the centre!



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ANSWERS: A. 14, B. 4, C. 19, D. 16, E. 7, F. 3, G. 13, H. 18.

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CRAFT A SPIDER HAT

This cool spider headwear is perfect for Halloween.
Follow the instructions below to make one of your own!

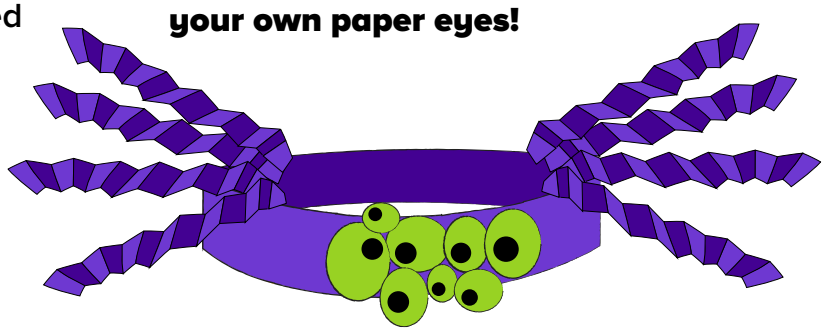
YOU WILL NEED:

- **A4 sheets of coloured card**
- **pencil**
- **scissors (get an adult to help you cut the bits out!)**
- **sticky tape**
- **a black marker pen**
- **the template sheet downloaded using this QR code:**

HOW TO MAKE IT:

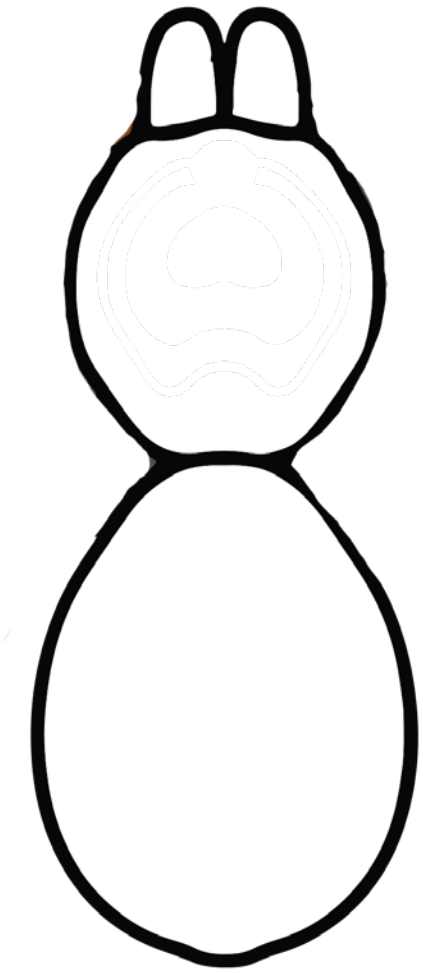
1. First, print out the template sheets and cut out the leg and headband template pieces.
2. Trace out the shape of the headband template piece twice on a sheet of coloured card. Cut out the two headband pieces and tape them together at the ends to make them into one long piece. Get an adult to help you wrap the headband around your head and use sticky tape to make it the right size to fit perfectly!
3. Next, trace out the shape of the spider leg template eight times on another sheet of card and cut them out. Each leg should be folded several times, first one way and then the other, to make a fun accordion shape.
4. Using sticky tape, attach the legs to the inside of the headband, with four on each side. The legs should extend over the top so they look like eight spider legs.
5. Now it's time to make the eyes! Cut out eight circles from a different coloured sheet of paper and draw a dot in the middle of each for the pupil. You can vary the sizes of the circles to make your spider look zany and cool. Stick the eyes onto the front of the headband.

TOP TIP: You can also stick googly eyes onto the hat instead of making your own paper eyes!



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COMPLETE THE SPIDER!



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