



Insects and Spiders (Smart Words Science Reader)

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Insects, Spiders, Adaptations, Habitats, Survival

Book Brief: Insects and spiders may be small, but they have some incredible characteristics! Explore colorful photographs and fascinating facts to learn how these creatures look, behave, survive, and interact with the world around them.

BEFORE READING

The Cover & Pictures: Look at the cover and take a quick picture walk. Ask students what they notice about the insects and spiders shown. What details in the photographs might help us learn about these creatures?

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “What do you already know about insects and spiders? How are they alike and different?” Use RIF’s [KWL Chart](#) to capture students’ ideas to revisit after reading.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using RIF’s [Tier Two Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, pay attention to the characteristics, behaviors, and habitats of insects and spiders. Think about how these details help us understand the ways they survive.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What characteristics help us distinguish insects from spiders?
- How do different insects and spiders use their physical characteristics or behaviors to survive?
- How does an insect’s or spider’s habitat help meet its needs?
- How do the photographs and text work together to deepen our understanding of these creatures?



Think Aloud: “I’m noticing that the author isn’t just describing what these creatures look like. We’re also learning about their behaviors, habitats, and ways of surviving. As I read, I’m connecting these details to understand how each creature is suited to its environment.”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: “What did we learn about the characteristics, behaviors, and habitats of insects and spiders? How do these features and behaviors help them survive?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students to compare an insect and a spider from the book. What characteristics or behaviors do they share? How are they different? Have students use specific details from the text and photographs to support their thinking.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

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KEEP READING & EXPLORING



Creature Profile

Materials: Paper, pencils, crayons or markers

Directions: Choose an insect or spider and create an informational profile. Include its physical characteristics, habitat, behaviors, and at least one way its characteristics or behaviors help it survive.

Survival Connections

Materials: Paper, pencils

Directions: Choose three insects or spiders from the book. For each one, identify a physical characteristic or behavior and explain how it may help the creature survive in its environment.

Compare & Contrast

Materials: Paper, pencils

Directions: Choose one insect and one spider from the book. Create a [Venn diagram](#) comparing their physical characteristics, behaviors, habitats, and ways of surviving. Use details from the book to support each comparison.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Use this Venn diagram to compare and contrast two elements within a text/story.

Book Title/Topic: _____

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