

Up, Up, and Away

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE

SPIDER HUNTER

Materials: paper, pencil

Take a walk outside to search for signs of spiders. Have children predict where they will find the arachnids. Once you see a spider or its web, allow children to make observations. How big is the web? Is there food in the web? What kind of spider is it? Does it have eggs? Have students record their observations. Be careful not to disturb the spiders or their webs—just observe.



TECHNOLOGY

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Website: www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Arachnida/pictures

Have students browse this gallery and choose three different kinds of spiders or spider webs. Students should make a chart or diagram or draw a picture to compare the physical appearance of the three. What do all the spiders have in common?

ENGINEERING

WEB DESIGN

Materials: string, scissors, video (vimeo.com/6499743)

Show the time-lapsed video of a web being constructed. Divide students into small groups. Each group should choose a location to build between two stationary objects and start with the basic frame of one horizontal line and one vertical line. Students should design their web similarly to the way a real spider would. Do they think their webs could catch some prey? Why or why not?

ART

LUNCH TIME!

Materials: paper, pencil, markers or crayons

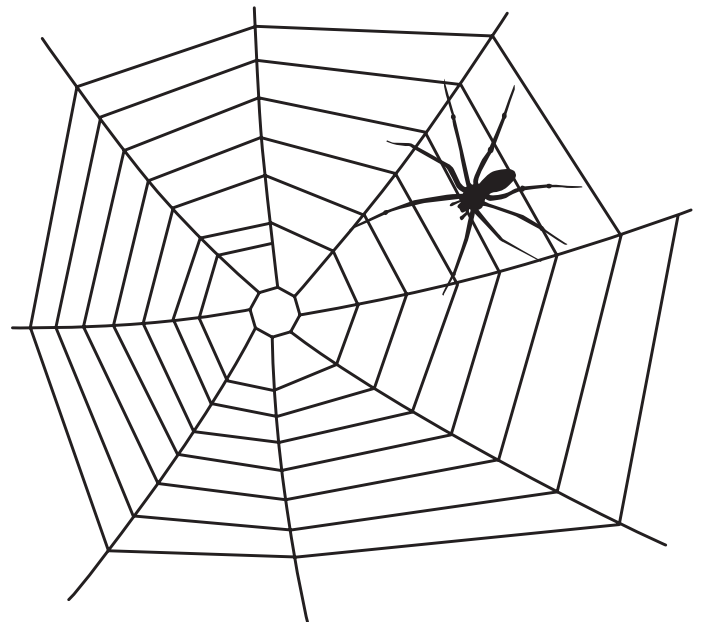
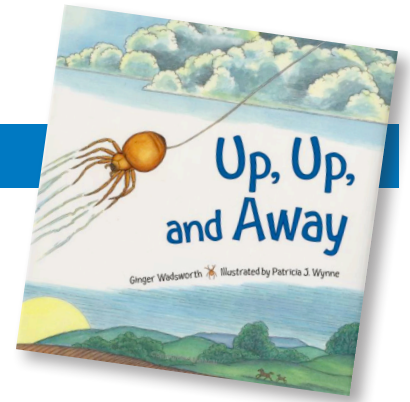
Have each student draw a picture of a spider in its web. Tell them their spider is hungry and needs to eat! They should draw in some of the prey that the spider likes to eat. Remind them to label his food so the spider knows what he's eating.

MATH

SPIDER SUMS

Create spider word problems for your class to solve as a group, in pairs, or individually. Some examples include:

- ◆ If there are 36 legs, how many spiders are there?
- ◆ The spider caught 5 flies in her web. How many legs did she eat?
- ◆ If a spider has 100 spiderlings and half of them don't survive, how many spiderlings are left?



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