

Spot the Spiderweb

Did you know that different spider families create different webs, which can help us identify which spider might be living on each web? For this activity, head out on a spiderweb hunt to see if you can spot the different types, and take a look at the amazing spiders that have created them.

Step 1

Head outside to see what webs you can find. Going out in the morning when there is dew on the webs is even better, as the water droplets will help you see the webs better.

In cracks and holes in walls and trees

Corners of rooms

In sheds or garages

Step 2

Don't forget to look in lots of quiet places where spiders might be hiding away.

Inside compost bins

In grass and on bushes

You could take a magnifying glass to look more closely at the spider and web, and a notebook or paper so you can keep track of what you have seen.

Common Spider Species



Cucumber Spider



Nursery Web Spider



Wolf Spider



Labyrinth Spider



Money Spider



Garden Spider



Cave Spider



Zebra Jumping Spider



Giant House Spider

Lots of people are scared of spiders, but the chances of being harmed by a spider in the UK are very very small! Spiders are amazing at eating pests and are very cool creatures. Why not do some research to find out why spiders are great to have around?

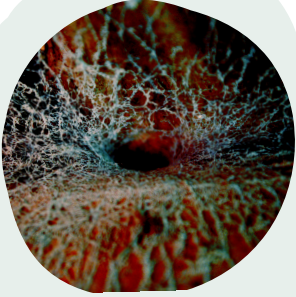
Did you know?

Orb webs are fragile so wind and rain may damage them. The sticky silk coating on the web, that traps flying insects, doesn't work if it is covered in dust. This means that these webs are often rebuilt every night.

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These are eight different types of spiderweb you might find in the UK.

Types of Spiderweb:



Radial Web

These webs have strands of silk coming from the centre and they act like trip wires. When prey knock them, the spider dashes out of its hole to catch them.



Orb Web

The sticky silk traps prey but dust stops this from working. This means they are often rebuilt every night!



Lace Web

These look messy and are usually found outside. There will be a hole in the middle where the spider hides and waits for prey.



Funnel Web

House spiders make these, so you might recognise them from your home. These look similar to a lace web but are like a white silk sheet. Spiders will hide in a retreat.



Nursery Web

These tent-like webs are often found in grassland. These are used to raise spiderlings for shelter and protection, so don't really catch prey.



Sheet Web

These are usually horizontal and look like soft sheets. They are often on plants and can look a little like a hammock. Spiders are usually underneath.



Tube Web

These are a silky tunnel-like web, often found in gaps and holes in rocks and bricks. The spider is usually found hiding in the tube.



Tangled Web

These have no obvious structure and look a little messy. These will often be found in houses.

Thanks to Dexter Smith for supplying some of the photos used in this resource

Did you know?

Spiders have a special body part called a "spinnerette" which makes the silk used in web making! This is one of the strongest materials on earth.