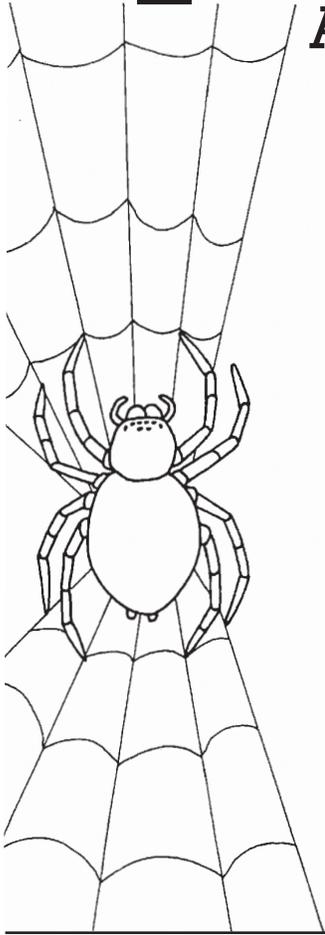


Spiders!

Arachnids (ah-RACK-nids)

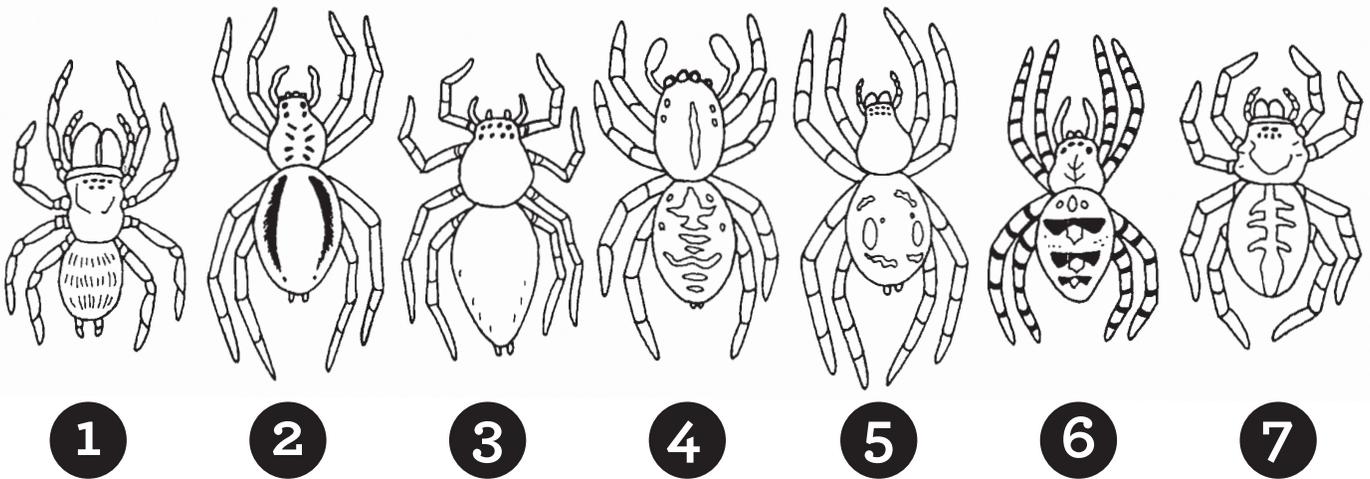


There are about 486 different kinds of spiders in Wisconsin, and about 35,000 types worldwide.

The smallest spider known is about 0.05 inches long, while the largest known spider has a leg span of over 9 inches (longer than this paper).

Most spiders, when moving around, will secure themselves with a “drag-line,” much like the safety ropes of mountaineers, to avoid injury from a fall.

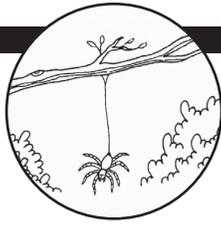
Silk is used in many ways by spiders, including building retreats, constructing egg sacs, webs for prey capture, and immobilizing their prey.



1. Purse Web Spider
2. Wolf Spider
3. Banana Spider
4. Jumping Spider

5. Orb Weaver Spider
6. Garden Spider
7. Trap-Door Spider

Be a Spider



DETECTIVE

We are all different kinds of spiders. See if you can find us! (Start your hunt at the bottom of the ramp in the *Rainforest*.)

I am big and hairy and located at the bottom of the ramp. Do you think I would catch a small bird? I am the easiest spider to find. Now be prepared to look closer.

Go halfway up the ramp and you will find me in my web anchored to the stilted roots of a tree. See the crab. Count its legs to find out if it is a relative of mine.

At the display of night animals, halfway up the ramp, look in the case labeled *Small Creatures*. Look under the dead log. EEK! Nearby, find one of my relatives, the tailless whipscorpion. Is it having lunch?

At the top of the ramp you've reached the canopy, or treetops, of the rainforest. Straight ahead you see a two-toed sloth hanging upside-down. GREEN HAIR? The green algae living in the sloth's hair helps to hide the sloth in the leaves. The sloth's hair also provides homes for ticks and mites, my relatives. Find one! (It, too, has 8 legs.)

Left of the sloth, find a case called *Animals of the Canopy-Small Creatures*. Look for me. Be sure to count my eight legs.

Continue on an angle to the corner - the home of the Tank Bromeliad. This plant clings to treetops. Imagine living in a plant! Look for me. Why am I so hard to find?

Go along the cases to one called *Evidence for Evolution-Basic Biochemical Similarities*. Look for my big and hairy body. What's my name?

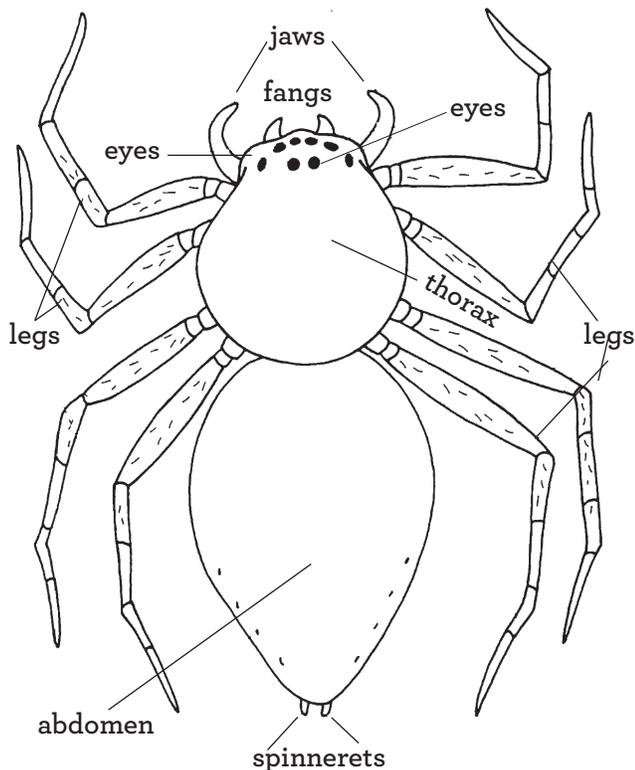
Continue to the corner to the case called *Natural Selection*. Where am I hiding?

Go down the stairs and turn left. Look underneath the stairs in the display on *Decomposers*. Notice my web, where I'm lying in wait for a tasty meal.

Backtrack past the stairs and look to the left for the window display that shows the rainforest 10 years after a disturbance. Look for my web. Do you see my next meal? Nearby on a leaf is a "hairy cousin" of mine.

Ahead and right next to the stairs is *The Strangler Strikes Again*. Look inside the hollow tree and find a whole food chain. The big toad on the bottom is looking for a meal of my relative, the tailless whipscorpion. Find one for him.

The Banana Spider



Congratulations! Now you're the first-rate spider detective!