

Web Weavers

Building a Web

See how spiders use silk.

A spider squeezes liquid from its body. The liquid hardens into a strong silk thread. It can be thin or thick. It can also be smooth or sticky.

All spiders spin silk. Some spiders hang from their silk. Some use their silk to protect their eggs. Many spiders use their silk to build webs. Learn about three kinds of **web builders**. They each build a different kind of web.

Sticky Silk

An orb weaver builds a round web. It is made of thin silk. Some of the silk is sticky. Insects fly into the web and get caught. The spider feels the web move. It knows that food is there.



Gary W. Carter/Corbis

Hide and Grab

A funnel weaver builds a web near the ground. It is shaped like a cone. The spider hides in the narrow end. The web moves if an insect walks over the wide end. The spider feels the web move. It rushes out and grabs its meal.

Net Drop

A web thrower builds a small web. It is shaped like a rectangle. The spider hangs upside down. It holds the web and uses it like a net. The spider waits for an insect to crawl by. It drops the web over the insect to trap it.



Kevin Schafer/Corbis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. The passage discusses the different ways that spiders use silk. What is one thing that all spiders do with silk?

2. How do web throwers use their webs to catch insects?

3. How do insects get caught in orb weavers' webs?

4. What is the main idea of the "Web Weavers" passage?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

A funnel weaver spider builds a cone-shaped web near the ground so that it can catch insects walking by.

What? a funnel weaver spider

5. (does) What?

6. Where?

7. Why?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

An orb weaver spider knows when an insect flies into its web _____ it feels the web move.

- A but
- B because
- C so

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **protect** (pro · tect): to prevent from being harmed.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **protect**.
- a. When we bike, we wear helmets to protect our heads from getting hurt if we fall.
 - b. Taking vitamins may protect you from getting sick by keeping your body strong.
 - c. Parents protect children by having rules that keep their kids safe.
 - d. Mama birds may protect their young by attacking another animal that comes close to them.
 - e. Wearing a hat can protect your face from getting burned by the sun.
10. Which person below could NOT protect you very well?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 480

Featured Text Structure: Compare/Contrast – the writer presents similarities and differences between two or more objects, places, events, or ideas

Passage Summary: The passage explains that all spiders use silk but that they build different kinds of webs. It describes the webs of orb weavers, funnel weavers, and web throwers.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give all students a copy of the passage so that they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep-teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. The passage discusses the different ways that spiders use silk. What is one thing that all spiders do with silk? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: One thing all spiders do is spin silk. [paragraph 2]

2. How do web throwers use their webs to catch insects? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: The web thrower spider hangs upside down. It holds the web and uses it like a net. The spider waits for an insect to crawl by and then drops the web over the insect to trap it. [paragraph 5]

3. How do insects get caught in orb weavers' webs? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Orb weavers' silk is sticky, so insects get caught because they get stuck to the silk. [paragraph 3]

4. What is the main idea of the "Web Weavers" passage? [Main Idea]

Suggested answer: The main idea is that while all spiders spin silk, they use their silk to build different kinds of webs.

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

A funnel weaver spider builds a cone-shaped web near the ground so that it can catch insects walking by.

What? a funnel weaver spider

5. (does) What? **builds a cone-shaped web**

6. Where? **near the ground**

7. Why? **so that it can catch insects walking by**

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

An orb weaver spider knows when an insect flies into its web _____ it feels the web move.

A but

B because

C so

To the Teacher: ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **protect** (pro · tect): to prevent from being harmed.

Step 1: Introduce the word

- Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (pro · tect)
- Teacher says: "This word is protect. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "protect."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- Teacher says: "Protect means to prevent from being harmed."
- Teacher says: "The passage discusses different ways that spiders use their silk. It explains that some spiders use their silk to make sure that their eggs do not get harmed. They use their silk to protect their eggs."

- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "protect."]

Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

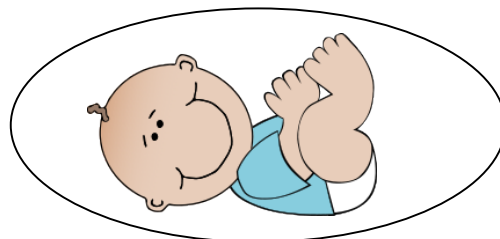
Vocabulary Word: **protect** (pro · tect): to prevent from being harmed.

- 9.** Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **protect**.
- When we bike, we wear helmets to protect our heads from getting hurt if we fall.
 - Taking vitamins may protect you from getting sick by keeping your body strong.
 - Parents protect children by having rules that keep their kids safe.
 - Mama birds may protect their young by attacking another animal that comes close to them.
 - Wearing a hat can protect your face from getting burned by the sun.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

To the Teacher: This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10.** Which person below could NOT protect you very well?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: spin, funnel