

LET'S GO
OUTSIDE AND
LEARN

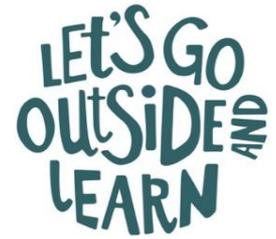


Investigating spiders

www.lgoal.org

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Investigating spiders



At this time of year in the warmer weather we become more aware of spiders in our house and gardens. They seem to be everywhere, weaving their complex webs.

How well do you know your spiders and their webs?

The Natural History Museum has an article that helps you to identify spiders from the shape of their webs

www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/spider-webs.html

Once you have mastered the id you can take the quiz

www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/spider-season-web-quiz.html



Spinning a web

A new web takes about two hours for a garden orb spider to build.

It starts with a silk line across a gap which is strengthened.

Then the spider adds the radial and spiral threads.

To finish up the web, the spider removes the central knot of threads and replaces it with a lattice.

The spider waits in a head-down position at the centre of the web or hidden nearby in contact by a signal thread.

When an insect flies into the web the spider approaches the source of the vibrations, bites it and wraps it in silk, to feed on later.

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Watch the amazing BBC Earth time lapse film of a garden orb spider building a web.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNtSAQHNONo>

There is another lovely film clip showing baby money spiders “flying” on their silken threads.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p027lmvv>



Making a spider habitat

You may not welcome spiders in your house, but why not welcome them into a corner of your garden by building an insect hotel.

There are detailed guidance notes online for building a sophisticated bug hotel

www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/

Your hotel could be as simple as collecting natural materials to provide hiding places for spiders and other insects by filling an old plant pot with twigs and other garden materials.

The Art of the Spider's Web at the Metropolitan Art Gallery. Spider webs have been a source of artistic inspiration, as seen in a collection of works spanning three centuries

www.metmuseum.org/blogs/now-at-the-met/2017/spider-webs

0:02 29 May

Why I spent lockdown with 70 spiders



When Covid-19 hit, zookeeper Caitlin Henderson ended up in lockdown with 70 spiders.

This is the news story about the zoo keeper who spent the Covid lockdown looking after 70 spiders in her house.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/crgy4rr0754t/spiders

Take some photos of the spiders that you find in your house or garden. We would love to hear from you.