

Spider Facts for Kids

- 1) Spiders are not insects. Instead, spiders are known as arachnids because they only have two body segments instead of three. Other arachnids are scorpions, mites, and ticks.
- 2) Spiders spin webs to catch other bugs to eat, but not all spiders make webs! Some actively hunt their prey and pounce.
- 3) Most spiders are not dangerous to humans.
- 4) The wolf spider carries her babies on her back with her.



(This photo is of a wolf spider, yet there are no babies on this one).

- 11) The silk strands in a web are 5x stronger than a piece of steel the same size.
- 12) Spiders have short hairs on their feet that allow them to walk upside down on ceilings and over glass.
- 13) Spiders are found everywhere in the world except for the cold polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctic.

14) The average life of a spider is one to two years. Although the female tarantula may live up to 20 years!



15) The silk is a liquid inside the spider's abdomen. When the spider releases it, it becomes solid and forms a thread.

16) Some spiders eat their old web before starting a new one. Others roll the old web up and throw it away. Web spiders rebuild their web each day!

17) Spiders don't usually eat their prey because they have small mouths. Instead, they put chemicals into and on the prey to turn the body into a liquid. Then the spider sucks it up.

18) The hair on a spider's first pair of legs are sensitive to taste. The spider "tastes" its prey by touching it.

19) Spiders use muscles to move their legs inward toward their body. But they don't have muscles to pull their legs out. So to move legs out, a spider has to pump body water into each leg. This is why you can sometimes see a spider curled up – he has lost too much water to push his legs out again.

20) Some spiders, such as the tarantula, are considered a low-maintenance pet.

Many of these spider fun facts are taken from:

(1) [Bugs and Insects – Sticker Activity Book by Sally Morgan. 2008.](#)

(2) [Bugs by Penelope York. 2002.](#)