Name: _____ Date: _____

How Do Spiders Spin Webs?

Year 3 reading comprehension · Information text · 11 marks · About 15 minutes

Making silk

A spider makes silk inside its own body. The silk comes out of tiny tubes called spinnerets, at the back of the spider. It starts as a liquid. As soon as it meets the air, it turns into a thin, strong thread.

Starting a web

Many spiders spin a web to catch food. First, the spider lets a thread float on the wind. When the thread sticks to a branch, the spider walks along it. Then it builds a frame and adds lines like the spokes of a wheel.

The sticky spiral

Next, the spider spins a spiral of sticky thread across the spokes. The spokes are not sticky, so the spider can walk on them safely. Then the spider waits, often in the middle of the web.

Catching food

When a fly lands on the web, it gets stuck. The web shakes, and the spider feels it through its legs. The spider rushes over and wraps the fly in silk. Not all spiders spin webs, though. Some hunt for their food, and others wait in a hole.

1. What are the tiny tubes that silk comes out of called? (1 mark)

_____

2. What does a spider let float on the wind to start its web? (1 mark)

_____

3. Find and copy one word from the “Catching food” section that means “hurries”. (1 mark)

_____

4. Number these events 1 to 4 in the order they happen. (2 marks)

- ☐ The spider spins a sticky spiral.
- ☐ A fly gets stuck in the web.
- ☐ The spider lets a thread float on the wind.
- ☐ The spider builds a frame and spokes.

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5. Why can the spider walk on the spokes of its web safely? (1 mark)

6. How does the spider know that a fly has landed on its web? (1 mark)

7. Why do you think the spider wraps the fly in silk? (2 marks)

8. Write one sentence to explain how a spider catches food in a web. (2 marks)

Writing task: Imagine you are a spider building a web at night. Write five sentences about what you see, feel and do.

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