

Lesson Plan

Web Detectives

Book: *Spiderwebs*

Series: Animal Engineers

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice searching for specific information in a book, using features such as chapter titles and the table of contents to locate it.

Supplies

- *Spiderwebs* book
- Web Detectives worksheet (attached)

Before the Activity

Read through the *Spiderwebs* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print a Web Detectives worksheet for each student.

Activity

Spiders make webs from silk. Webs made by different species of spiders can be different shapes. Each shape catches prey in a different way. The *Spiderwebs* book mentions four different kinds of webs. Students should use the book to look for information or clues about each kind. Then they should fill in the four sections of the Web Detectives worksheet, writing a short description of a different kind of web in each section.

For each kind of web, students should include the following information:

- One sentence explaining the web's name or shape
- Two to three sentences explaining how a spider uses the web to catch prey

Students should make sure to write their answers as complete sentences. They should also include a page number at the end of each sentence to show where they found the information.

Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to score students' worksheets, for a total of up to 14 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.3) and writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.8).

Web Detectives

<p>Web 1 What does it look like?</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey?</p>	<p>Web 2 What does it look like?</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey?</p>
<p>Web 3 What does it look like?</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey?</p>	<p>Web 4 What does it look like?</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey?</p>

BONUS

Not all spiders use their webs to catch prey. What is one spider that builds a web for a different reason? How does this spider use its web?

Web Detectives **Answer Key**

<p>Web 1 What does it look like? (1 point) An orb web is shaped like a bicycle wheel: it is round, with spokes running from the middle out to the edges (p. 7).</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey? (2 points) The spider waits at the middle of the web (p. 15). Insects become trapped in the web's sticky silk (p. 7 or p. 16). The silk vibrates, and the spider knows it has caught food (p. 16).</p>	<p>Web 2 What does it look like? (1 point) Some spiderwebs are shaped like funnels (p. 20).</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey? (2 points) The spider hides in the bottom of the web (p. 20). It waits for prey to fall into the top of the funnel (p. 20).</p>
<p>Web 3 What does it look like? (1 point) Some spiders build loose webs in the corners of buildings (p. 20).</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey? (2 points) The web has sticky threads that trap insects (p. 20). If the insects wiggle, the threads pull the insects to the middle of the web (p. 20).</p>	<p>Web 4 What does it look like? (1 point) Sheet webs are made of flat layers (p. 20).</p> <p>How does the spider use it to catch prey? (2 points) The spider hides underneath the web (p. 20). Insects fly into threads above the web (p. 20). This makes them fall down onto the flat sheets (p. 20).</p>

BONUS (2 points)

Not all spiders use their webs to catch prey. What is one spider that builds a web for a different reason? How does this spider use its web?

The nursery web spider spins a web that is shaped like a tent (p. 19). The spider uses this web to protect her egg sac (p. 19).