

NATURE QUEST

Nature Quest challenges kids of all ages to be curious about nature, right here in southeast Indiana. Take this sheet to a nature preserve, park, or wildlife refuge. Complete each part of the grid below. We'll release new Nature Quest challenges throughout the season. After you complete any one challenge, enter to win the Grand Prize. Enter all eight!

**Materials
you might
take along:**

- Pictures of different types of spider webs and spiders (google: "field museum spider guide")
- Pencil and/or colored pencils, and a notebook
- Books or field guides from the "Library Thing" list for this challenge

Tip: A good park for this Nature Quest is Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, Indiana. Find directions, trail maps, and more at www.oakheritageconservancy.org - or do this challenge at any park with a combination of woods and meadows.

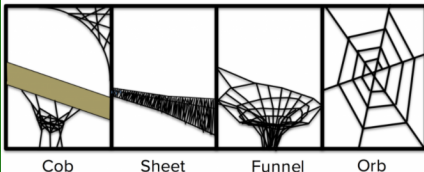
Spiders are friends! There are over 400 species of spiders in Indiana, and only two are poisonous. Let's get to know these excellent creatures. Spiders are arthropods, like insects - they have skeletons on the outside of their bodies (ours are on the inside!). But: they aren't insects! They have eight legs, and they hunt for prey (usually insects). Can you find a spider? Most make webs, so start by looking for a web!

Sit quietly and watch your web.
Is there a spider on your web?
What's it doing?

- Waiting, staying still, resting
- Catching prey (an insect they want to eat)
- Adding to its web
- Hiding
- Something else: _____

Spiders make silk in a special part of their body called a spinneret gland, and use their legs to pull it out of their bodies. This is called spinning. If you could spin silk and make a web, where would you make your web? What would you do with your web? Draw or write about your web!

Different types of spiders make different types of webs. Here are some common ones. Which type is your web?



SPIDER WEBS

All spiders spin silk - but not all spiders make webs! Wolf spiders are a good example. They have two huge eyes for watching prey - and then they jump on them! You can see a drawing of their eyes in the bottom right box. Pretend to be a spider. Either spin a web to catch your prey - or watch closely and jump on your prey.

Even though spiders have eight eyes, most of them can't see very well - they rely on what they feel in order to know when they've caught prey in their webs. Close your eyes and imagine finding your food with just your sense of touch!

Insects get stuck in a spider's web, but they can try to get away. The insect's struggle makes the web vibrate. The spider senses this movement and attacks with a bite or by wrapping the insect up in more silk (and then biting it). Does your web have any stuck insects? Draw or write about what you see. No insects? Find another web!

You can sometimes tell a spider by its eyes. Most have eight, but they are arranged in many patterns! Here are a few. Which is your favorite?



Find more Nature Quest challenges, and enter to win the Grand Prize, at www.oakheritageconservancy.org/nature-quest

Brought to you by:



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