

Spiders

Spiders are interesting creatures. They scare a lot of people, but most of them are not poisonous. Spiders belong to the animal group called, arachnids. Other arachnids include scorpions, mites and ticks. Most people think spiders are insects. Arachnids have 8 legs. Insects have 6 legs. Arachnids have bodies that are split into two parts. Insects have 3 body parts. Arachnids have no wings or antennae. Insects usually have wings. There are more than 30,000 different kinds of spiders. They are predators and will eat other spiders.

Most spiders have 8 eyes. They have little leg parts close to their mouths. These help hold their prey while the spider bites it. At the back end of a spider are the spinnerets. This is where silk comes from to make webs. How does a spider keep from sticking to its own web? It has oil all over its body. There are tiny hairs on a spider's legs. These hairs feel the vibrations in the air. The hairs also help it to smell.

Spiders are born to spin their silk into webs. They do not need their parents to teach them. Some use their webs to catch prey. Some like to hunt instead.