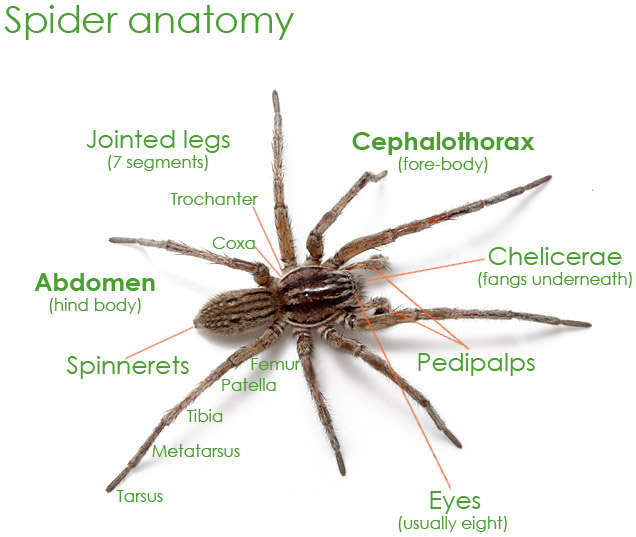
**Animals-Chapter 3**



**SPIDERS ARE ARACHNIDS**

**THE BODY OF A SPIDER**



**Spiders have two body segments. The front segment is called the Cephalothorax. The spider’s eyes, mouth fangs, stomach, brain and the glands that make the poison are on this part of the body. The legs are connected to this part, as well. Most spiders have eight eyes, but some have less. Spiders also have these tiny little leg-ish things called ‘pedipalps’ that are beside the fangs. They help to hold prey while the spider bites it.**

**Spiders do not have a skeleton inside their bodies. They have a hard outer shell called an ‘exoskeleton’. Because it is hard, it can’t grow with the spider. So young spiders need to molt, or shed their exoskeleton.**



**Male spiders are usually smaller than females.**

**VENOMOUS SPIDERS?**



**Black widow and brown recluse**



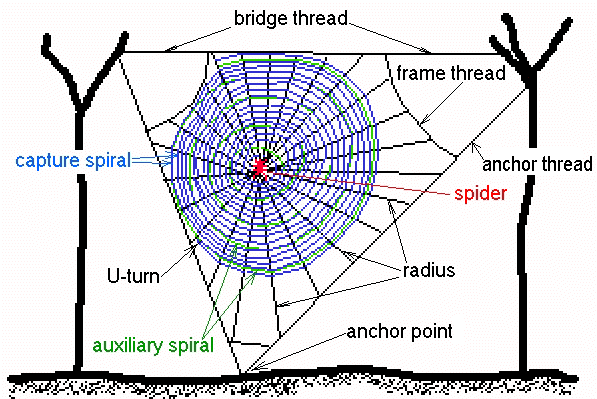


**People usually associate Tarantulas with the people-killing kind of poison. This is untrue. They have small poison glands and will be about as painful as a hornet or bee sting**



**SMOOTH AS SILK**

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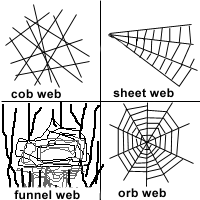
**Different spiders produce different types of silk. Silk can be sticky, dry or stretchy. Surprisingly, silk is so strong that some spiders use it for traveling. With one end attached to a surface such as a tree branch, the spider will hang onto the end and let the wind carry it away! This is called ‘ballooning’ and can take the spider many kilometers.**

**Larger spiders, like the huge bird eating spiders, can actually catch and subdue animals as large as bats, mice, fish, birds and even snakes with their strong webs. Spiders like the Bolas spider will fish with their silk.**



**Did you know that spiders will recycle their silk? Yup, they eat up what isn’t useful anymore and start over with fresh stuff.**

**SURFING THE WEB**



**Many spiders will build webs to catch prey but there are lots of spiders who prefer to hunt, and they use their webs for other things. All spiders are born to spin. They don’t need their parents to teach them how.**



**Another type of web is the sheet-web. This web is spun horizontally and has special non-sticky lines above it. These lines knock insects down onto the sheet-web where they get stuck.**

**THE HUNTER**







**SPIDERLINGS**



**Spiders are serious predators so mating can be a bit dangerous especially for the males. Male spiders have to be careful when meeting the female. Using his claws he will send gentle, even vibrations through the web, unlike the quick, jerky movements of scared insects. This announces his arrival, but he still has to convince the female that she shouldn’t eat him. Male Jumping spiders will do a dance to show the female why he is there and the male Wolf spider will wave his hairy front legs. The male Nursery Web spider (being quite a gentleman) will wrap an insect in his silk and give it to the female as a gift! If the female chooses NOT to eat him she will mate with him. After mating she may still decide to eat him before he gets away. Tough date!! Good news: this is not too common.**

[](http://images.search.yahoo.com/images/view;_ylt=A0PDoV2QjIRQOGoAbzqJzbkF;_ylu=X3oDMTBtcGdqcGxtBHNlYwNkZC1zdW0tMQRzbGsDaHFzdW0-?w=1545&prtnr=Getty&h=1024&imgurl=d3.yimg.com/sr/img/1/8d977121-0154-300a-9060-8c8fc77b63cb&size=279KB&p=wolf+spider&ni=120&no=1&tt=Wolf+Spiders&sigi%5b0%5d=&sigi%5b1%5d=11plog2k3&tmpl=&rurl=http://images.search.yahoo.com&imgs=yahoohq)