



Spiders, Spiders, Spiders!

- ① Have you ever walked into a spider web? Do you ever see spiders scurrying across the floor or up the stalk of a plant? Spiders are all over the world and many of them are in your own backyard. Spiders are **varied** in their looks and habits. It is interesting to learn about different kinds of spiders.

Trap-Door Spiders are large, hairy, and harmless. They burrow in the ground and make nests. They spin silk made from spinnerets in their body to line the burrow. The entrance to the burrow is made like a trap door. This hides the spider's lair. The Trap-Door Spider then hides in the doorway, waiting there so he can catch unsuspecting ants and insects. These spiders make their nests in groups.

Funnel-web Spiders make funnel-shaped webs to trap insects. The web is made of dried silk. The back of the web has the funnel-shaped area where the spider hides. These spiders are very shy and stay in the funnel-shaped opening until they are alerted that something is caught in the web. Insects that crawl or fly into the web get caught on the sticky surface. The spider feels the vibration, runs to the prey and bites it several times. It then wraps its victim in silk and takes it into the funnel. These spiders lay eggs in a sac and live for about a year.

Jumping Spiders are found all over the world. They are usually less than 2 centimeters long. They get their name from their ability to jump 10 to 40 times their body length. These spiders are brightly colored and have stout bodies and short legs. They hunt in the daylight. The Jumping Spider crawls to within a few feet of its prey. It then crouches and pounces on the insects and web building spiders upon which it feeds.

No matter where you live, spiders are part of your habitat. They all have different adaptations that allow them to live and catch food. Learning about them helps us understand and appreciate them.

1. Based on the selection, what is the meaning of the word **varied** as used in the first paragraph?
 - A. in large amounts
 - B. being very similar
 - C. having different forms
 - D. dangerous and threatening





2. How does a Funnel-web Spider know something is caught in its web?
- A. by the way the web is formed
 - B. by the eggs laid inside the web
 - C. by the amount of sticky silk in the web's wide opening
 - D. by the vibration the web's silk makes when something hits it
3. What happens before a Jumping Spider pounces on an insect?
- A. It lays eggs.
 - B. It crouches down.
 - C. It feeds on insects.
 - D. It crawls towards the prey.
4. According to the selection, what is the purpose of the spiders' adaptations?
- A. to be able to build nests
 - B. to catch food and survive
 - C. to help people appreciate them
 - D. to help people understand them



**ANSWER KEY****Source – Schoolnet; Lexile 600-700**

#	Question	Answer	Standard
1	Based on the selection, what is the meaning of the word varied as used in the first paragraph?	C	RI.4.4
2	How does a Funnel-web Spider know something is caught in its web?	D	RI.4.1
3	What happens before a Jumping Spider pounces on an insect?	B	RI.4.3
4	According to the selection, what is the purpose of the spiders' adaptations?	B	RI.4.1