



UNIT #5 – READING SECTION #2

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

- 1 Write.** What do you know about spiders? What would you like to know? Complete columns 1 and 2 of the chart.

I know	I would like to know	I learned

- 2 Listen and read.** TR: 5.6

Web Masters

A hairy tarantula crawls along a branch. He is one of 40,000 different spiders that live on Earth. Spiders live in many habitats, from rain forests to deserts, but they don't live in oceans. There are probably some in your home, too! You can find spiders in many sizes. A goliath tarantula is bigger than your hand, whereas the tiny *patua digua* spider is less than a millimeter long. A few spiders poison people, but don't be scared. It isn't common! In fact, spiders *help* humans because they eat insects—and mice—which destroy our crops. These wonderful web masters help balance life on Earth.



Spiders are wonderful but strange creatures. Most can't see clearly, so they have up to eight eyes to help them find their dinner! They are similar to insects in many ways, but they are in fact arachnids. They have two body parts, no wings, and eight legs (whereas insects have three body parts, up to four wings, and six legs). Using spinnerets, spiders make silk and spin strong webs. Once the prey is in the web, it's time to eat. The spider's mouth is awesome. The **palps**, next to its jaws, are like arms. They hold the prey still. Then the strong fangs bite. Ouch!

- 3 Read.** Read the chart in Activity 1 again. Then work with a partner and answer the questions.

1. Reread the questions you wrote in column 2. Does the text tell you what you would like to know?
2. What interesting things did you learn about spiders? Make notes in column 3.



Spider silk is one of the strongest materials on Earth. Some spiders can make silk that is stronger than steel!



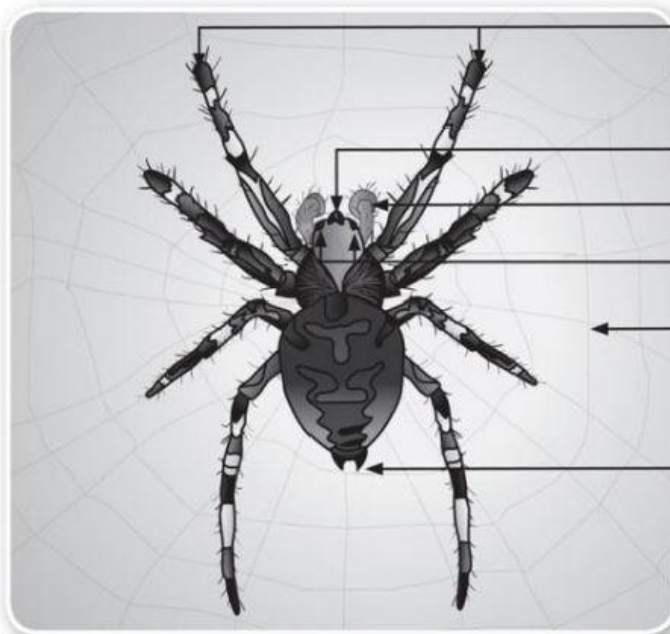
4 Read and write. Check T for *True* or F for *False*.

1. You can find spiders in all habitats.
2. Spiders rarely attack or hurt people.
3. Spiders do an important job on our planet.
4. The spider's prey can't escape because of its fangs.

T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F

5 Look and read. Label the picture.

eyes fangs legs palp spider's web spinneret



legs

- 6 Write.** Complete the diagram with information from Activity 2.
Then work with a partner. Talk about spiders. How are they different from—and similar to—insects?

