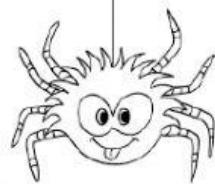


2nd Year - Test Unit 4

Reading



Spiders!

There are over 43,000 species of spiders worldwide. These eight-legged creatures are on every continent except for Antarctica. Most spiders are predators: they eat other spiders or insects. Some large spiders also eat small animals – for example, frogs, lizards and even birds. There are also tropical spiders that don't eat animals. They eat parts of plants, such as flower buds. There's a 'vegetarian' spider in Central America which feeds on parts of acacia trees.

Spiders usually catch insects in their webs, but many like hunting. There's a spider that is a really good hunter. It's called the huntsman spider. I want to find out more about the huntsman spider, so I'm here with Chris Richardson, an expert on spiders. I'm watching him film a documentary about spiders for the BBC. Chris, can you tell us what is happening?

'We are watching a huntsman spider right now. It's hiding under a leaf, waiting for an insect to come near it. It's not moving at all. It has to stay still so that the insect doesn't get frightened and run away. Huntsman spiders often wait for many hours in one place,' he adds. 'A small insect is coming closer to our huntsman spider. What's it doing? It's still waiting patiently ... Wow, did you see that? The huntsman spider quickly jumped on the insect and bit it!'

We asked Chris: 'Are there many dangerous spiders?' 'Yes, there are! There are some dangerous spiders around the world that can kill people, such as the mouse spider and the black widow spider, but most spiders are scared of people and run away when they see humans. Tarantulas dig a small hole in the ground and hide away from danger; others climb on trees or hide under rocks.'

'Some spiders are good mothers,' says Chris. 'They look after their babies well. Let me show you a film we took yesterday... Can you see the spider sitting on what looks like a white bag? It's a female huntsman spider. There are up to two hundred eggs in the bag, which is called a sac. She sits on the sac and doesn't eat for three weeks. Can you see another spider carrying something on its back? That's a female wolf spider. She carries around a hundred babies on her back until they mature and climb off. Spiders are everywhere! Maybe there's one climbing the wall, making a web or hiding somewhere in your room right now.'

Read the text and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Spiders are on all continents. T / F
- 2 Not all spiders are predators. T / F
- 3 Chris is filming tarantulas for his documentary. T / F
- 4 When huntsman spiders hunt, they wait for many days in the same place. T / F
- 5 The huntsman spider jumped on an insect. T / F
- 6 According to Chris, most spiders are dangerous and will attack people. T / F
- 7 Tarantulas often hide in the ground in a dangerous situation. T / F
- 8 There are around one hundred eggs in the female huntsman spider's sac. T / F
- 9 The female wolf spider carries about a hundred baby spiders on her back. T / F
- 10 According to Chris, spiders are everywhere. T / F