Name_____

The Jumping Spider

Nature photographers have captured on film a spider jumping from one flower to another. Using its large eyes, the jumping spider follows its prey. Then, the jumping spider set its sights, spins out a "safety line," and jumps.

A common variety in the United States, the Daring Jumping Spider makes its home in woods, fields, and gardens. Its distinctive, big-eyed appearance makes it easy to recognize. Four of its eight eyes are located on its face, and the other four are on top of its head. The spider is black with gray or white stripes, and it has spots on its abdomen.

Jumping spiders feast on a variety of insects, as well as other spiders. Some varieties climb as well, giving them a wide range of potential prey. These arachnids do not build webs to catch prey. They hunt on foot by sneaking up and pouncing on their victims. Even though jumping spiders only grow to be between one-quarter and one-half inches long, they can leap amazing distances for their size. Additionally, their excellent eyesight makes them very accurate. Jumping spiders are also one of the fastest arachnids. Scientists claim they are very smart.

In addition to using silk for safety lines when jumping, jumping spiders also use this thread to create shelter under leaves and to encase eggs until hatching.

Insects should be wary of this spider without a web that can stealthily approach, keenly observe, and leap.

Text Questions

1. Why does the author say these spiders are distinctive?
   a. They have large eyes to observe their prey.
   b. They spin out a line to construct a web and catch prey.
   c. They enclose their eggs in a silk sack.
   d. They create a shelter under a leaf.
2. Which is a synonym for the word *stealthily* as it is used in the text?
   a. awkwardly
   b. unreliably
   c. privately
   d. slyly
3. Which paragraph gives details about the spider's jumping abilities?
   a. the first paragraph
   b. the second paragraph
   c. the third paragraph
   d. the fourth paragraph
4. Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
   a. "The Spider Without a Web"
   b. "Life Cycle of the Jumping Spider"
   c. "A Beautiful Web"
   d. "Ready, Set, Jump!"
5. Describe what makes the jumping spider's tactics so effective. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

 ©Teacher Created Resources

LIVEWORKSHEETS