



SPIDERS

Starting With A Bang



By Rebecca K. Fraker



Watch the video clip ***Preparing For The Spider Unit.***

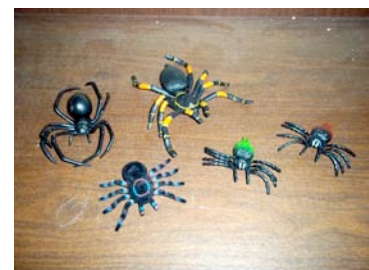
Explore the other clips, lessons, webquest and powerpoints available with this unit.

Prepare for this lesson by collecting the following:

- ◆ Small specimen bottles with lids
- ◆ Ziploc bags
- ◆ Rubber gloves
- ◆ Microscopes
- ◆ Slides & slide covers
- ◆ "dissecting" equipment (can just be kitchen knives)
- ◆ alcohol
- ◆ magnifying glasses
- ◆ paper towels
- ◆ tweezers
- ◆ digital cameras
- ◆ pictures of poisonous spiders in your area

Decorate the classroom with lots of spider webs, plastic spiders, etc. Lots of great stuff can be found at dollar stores. Do check to make sure that the spiders have 8 legs. You can also find anatomically correct spider specimens at crafts and toy stores. There are also some great spider posters out there.

Several of the other lessons have a word wall and spider body parts that can be put on the walls, also.



On the first day, begin with a brief talk about spiders. Mention that they are NOT insects, and that while there are a few poisonous ones, spiders keep us from being buried under insects.

Acquaint your students with the poisonous spiders in your area.

Next, discuss places where spiders can be found. These include just about any place!



Now prepare students with a specimen bottles or Ziploc bags, and gloves. Go out in the schoolyard and look for spiders. Take pictures if possible of them in the spot where they are found. Note where they are found. Collect them in the bottles or bags.



Bring the bottles back in the classroom and examine the spiders in their containers. Use magnifying glasses or those little plastic bug observers. Note down and share observations. If it appears that you have caught a rare or unique specimen, you may want to release it.

Next, pour alcohol over the spider. It will take a few minutes for it to die. At this point you may end the lesson and keep the spider for another day.

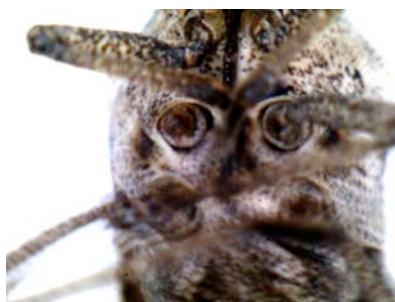
When the spiders are dead, remove them with the tweezers and take more pictures. Again, examine them with a magnifying glass.



Now prepare slides for the microscope. I have used clear plastic cut from a container from the deli and scotch tape when I haven't had anything else.

Examine the spider body parts under the microscope. This is a great time to introduce the names of the parts.

My class owns a proscope, which shows images on the computer and also allows us to take pictures for showing or printing.



Save the slides to look at in the future.



I recommend that the next lesson be the one on classification, but it really doesn't matter. Please note several things. One of the requirements for the spider honor is very time-consuming; you may want to start collecting the pictures or sketches right away.

Secondly, there are worships, crafts, songs, and poetry. These can be mixed among the lessons.

Thirdly, the webquest may also take some time, and can be run along with the other lessons.



Once I announced that I was doing a spider unit, my church members began to bring me spiders and send me information. Above are four of the pictures they sent me.

Students will enjoy the clip ***It Was A Dark and Stormy Day*** which shows a class hunting spiders on a rainy day.

Also with this unit is a short compilation of clips from Arkive.com.