

Activity 403B Adaptations

Trap-door Spiders in Action

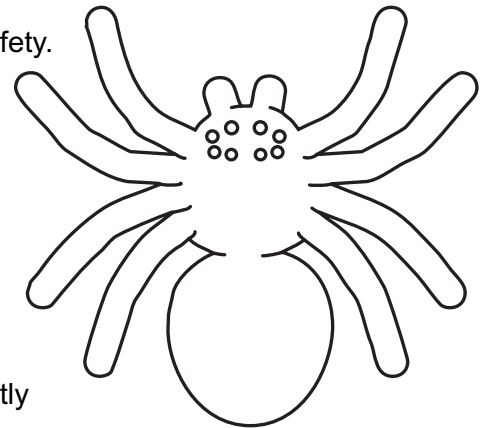
Objective Show how spiders catch their prey by making a 3-D model of the trap-door spider's trap.

What You Need

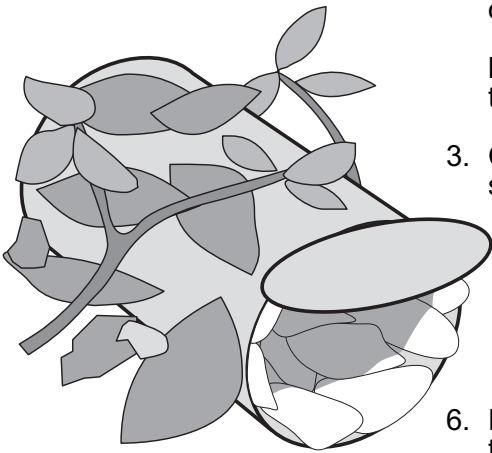
Cardboard paper tube	Popsicle sticks
Glue	Drawings or cutouts of insects (grasshoppers, ants, bees)
Cotton balls	String or yarn
Construction paper	Scissors
Leaves, sticks, and dirt	
Crayons	

Safety Follow your parent's or teacher's rules for safety.

- Directions**
1. Make the Trap-door Spider's lair. Cut the cardboard tube to a length of 5 inches. Pull or stretch out the cotton balls. Glue the stretched cotton balls to the inside of the tube. This represents the silk that the spider uses to line the trap.
 2. Cut a circle of construction paper to fit over the end of the tube. Tape it down on only one side. This forms the door of the spider's trap. The spider waits patiently behind the door of the trap until it feels the vibrations of its prey.
 3. Camouflage the spider's lair. Glue leaves, small sticks, or dirt on the outside of the tube.
 4. Color the picture of the Trap-door spider (Drawing 1). Cut the picture out and glue it to the top of a popsicle stick.
 5. Draw an insect or use cutouts. Some good insects are grasshoppers, ants, and bees (Drawing 2). Tape a piece of string to your insect prey.
 6. Find a partner. Have one person be the prey and dangle the drawing over the trap door. Have the second person be the spider. Pop out of the trap door and catch the prey. Take turns being the predator and the prey.
 7. How does the trap-door spider catch its prey? How do the leaves, dirt, and sticks help the spider?



Drawing 1



Go Further 1. Learn how spiders build a web. Watch an orb-web spider in action.
SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Webs . . . Build an Orb Web

Spider Math

1. If a Trap-door Spider eats two insects a day, how many will it have eaten at the end of one week?
2. A Desert Tarantula is $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. A Trap-door spider is $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. How much larger is the Desert Tarantula than the Trap-door Spider?

Spider Literature

1. Read about more unique spiders like the Trap-door Spider. Read the book, **Extremely Weird Spiders**, by Sarah Lowett.
SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Yarns

Drawing 2

