



Activity 501C Life Cycles

Up, Up and Away

Objective Create a model of a ballooning spiderling.

What You Need

Balloon	String or yarn
Construction paper	Tape
Glue	Scissors

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

Directions

1. Blow up a balloon and tie it off.
2. Squeeze the balloon in the middle to form a small head and a large abdomen. Use a rubber band to hold it in this shape.
3. Using construction paper, make 2 fangs, 8 eyes, and 8 legs for the spiderling. Glue these to the balloon. Remember that **all** of a spider's legs are attached to its head! Allow to dry.
4. Tie a piece of string to the "rear" (where you tied the balloon off) of the spiderling.
5. Using tape, hang the spiderling from the ceiling near a vent, window, or door. Observe the effect of air currents on the spiderling.

Go Further

1. Believe it or not, pilots have reported seeing ballooning spiders at heights of 4,000 feet. Just imagine the ride that spider experienced! Pretend that you are that spider and write a postcard to one of your friend's about your trip.
2. Make your own photo album of pictures that the spider would take from their ballooning perspective.
3. Spiders are not the only ones who like to balloon around. Steve Fossett just completed (June 2002) a solo trip around the world in a hot air balloon. What about you? Would you like to take a trip in a balloon? Check out this web site before you make your decision. Then, explain your answer.
www.solospirit.wustl.edu

Spider Math

1. Try this math experiment yourself. Collect small items like lima beans, lentils, linking cubes, or sugar cubes from around your home. These will represent spider eggs. Then using an old sock as your egg sac estimate how many "eggs" will fit into your sock egg sac.

Write down your estimate for each of the different kinds of eggs. Example: I think 40 lima beans will fit into this sock egg sac. I think 100 lentils will fit into this sock egg sac. I think 25 sugar cubes will fit into this sock egg sac.

Then check yourself.

Take turns filling the sock with the eggs with each type of spider eggs that you found around your home.

How did you do? Were your estimates close? Or not so close?

2. If you wanted to try this experiment again, what could you use as your egg sac? Once you have an idea. Try it!

Spider Literature

1. Read the book, **The Spider's Dance**, by Joanne Ryder.
SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Yarns . . . Books . . . Non-fiction
2. Read the book, **Spiders**, by Dean Morris.
SpiderRoom.info . . . Spider Yarns . . . Books . . . Non-fiction

