

Spiders

Spiders are part of the arachnid family, which includes scorpions and ticks. Spiders live on every continent in the world, except Antarctica. Spiders have eight legs, and organs that spin silk at the back end of their body.

All spiders can bite, even though most do not harm humans. Although every spider has the ability to bite with venom-injecting fangs, not all of them are poisonous. Spiders with poisonous venom rarely attack humans unless threatened.

Spiders generally have two body segments - an abdomen and a cephalothorax (head fused with thorax). A spider's abdomen houses its internal organs. Spinnerets, which produce the silken web, are also on the abdomen. The cephalothorax includes the head, mouth, fangs and legs. Most spiders have eight or six eyes.

A spider's mouth has several parts including a jaw that is tipped with fangs. A spider's pedipalps look like tiny legs, but are really more like antennae. Spiders use their pedipalps to sense objects, hold captured prey and shape their web.