



Amazing Design: Spiders (Grades 3-5)

Did God create spiders? If so, when did He do it? Is there any evidence? During this session we are going to answer these questions and take a closer look at four amazing spiders.

Let's get started!

Did God create spiders? If so, when did He do it?

According to the Bible, God created spiders on Day 6 of Creation Week. Check out these verses:

"And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:24-25

Since spiders "creep along the ground" they were created along with the other land animals on Day 6. However, like other creatures, spiders are not exactly the same as when they were first created. Spiders have been adapting and interbreeding for thousands of years—there are now over 43,000 species! We're going to take a closer look at four of them later on during this session.

Is there any evidence that God created spiders?

How do we know when something was created by someone really smart? Answer: it shows design and purpose. When we look at a remote-controlled toy spider, we instantly realize that somebody really smart designed and made it. There is simply no way this spider made itself or was created by an explosion in a toy factory. And yet, toys spiders are relatively simple compared to real ones! One of the best evidences for creation is that living creatures show amazing design.



Types of spiders

According to Britannica Encyclopedia, there are 43,000 different species of spiders in the world! That's a lot of spiders! What do they all have in common? They all show evidence of design! During the video lesson, we took a closer look at four types of spiders. Match the description of the spider with the picture by connecting them with lines.

I really love to show off when female spiders are nearby!



Football players would love to be able to jump like me!



I like to burrow underground and set traps for my prey!



I know spitting isn't polite but it's how I catch my lunch!



Spider silk

Spiders produce and use silk for many different purposes including:

- **Webs:** Many spiders (but not all) create webs to help them catch their prey. Did you know that spiders produce and use different types of silk for different parts of their webs? Some parts of the web are strong and stiff while other parts are more flexible and very sticky.
- **Safety lines:** Some spiders are relatively fragile and would die if they fell. Because of this, some spiders use safety lines to travel from one spot to another. People who climb mountains use this same idea—they use climbing ropes to stay safe.
- **Cocoons to protect their eggs**
- **Food source:** Since spider silk is made of protein, spiders will sometimes eat their own webs as a food source.
- **Nest lining and construction:** when spiders create nests, they often use silk to bind materials together.
- **Alarm lines:** spiders use spider silk to create lines to alert them when something is caught in their web or nearby (e.g., trap door spiders).
- **Guidelines to help find their way back home**

Spider silk is very strong! In fact, Dragline silk, the main support for webs, is **100 times stronger than steel**. A cable of Dragline silk a little thicker than a garden hose could support the weight of two full Boeing 747 aircraft!¹

Since spider silk is so strong and very flexible, scientists are exploring possible human uses for it. These include parachute cords, sutures for binding wounds (i.e., stitches), arresting wires to help planes land on aircraft carriers and more durable airbags for automobiles.



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¹ Source: <https://creation.com/god-s-webspinners-give-chemists-free-lessons-creation-magazine-spider-silk>

Why did God design spiders to kill?

Spiders clearly show design, but if God called everything “good” on Day 6 of creation week (Genesis 1:31) then why are spiders so good at killing their prey? Great question! Let’s start with the beginning. When God first created animals and humans, they all ate plants—even the spiders:

“And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.” Genesis 1:30

Did you know that at least one species of spiders still eats plants today? Meet the Bagheera kiplingi!

“Researchers have recently been surprised, however, to discover that a population of these spiders in Central America is “predominantly vegetarian”, dodging the ant guard patrols to forage on the fresh leaf tips, and to a lesser extent on petiolar nectar.”²



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Of course, after Adam and Eve rebelled against God (Genesis chapter 3), the world completely changed. Spiders and other living creatures were forced to adapt to living in a fallen world. Over thousands of years, spiders diversified and used their abilities to survive. Many of them became expert hunters. The good news is that one day in the future, Jesus is going to return and restore all of creation to its former glory:

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Revelation 24:4-6

In the meantime, let’s thank God for His creation and the beauty that still remains upon the Earth. Remember that God is in control and has an amazing plan!



“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.” Exodus 20:11

²Source: <https://creation.com/vegetarian-spider>

Just for fun: see how many different types of spiders you can find below

F V B G N G N I T T I P S V T R A
J Q A S I P B W T A K B D Z N L L
J F A D B D L R V N M U O X U G G
M B H X O D A K F U R H Q T V Z L
G Q J C U P C F X A U K N S X R J
G J K Q D E K G G L T A R E H Y D
E E R O O F W D K E R L R O N E S
T J O K J N I A S A M N C W W M A
I R N H O G D E T K G J Z O A A C
Z O B T O U O K C Q U B L T V T U
C P A U U V W O Z M Z F Q Q E O Z
S W Q L V U C R P E D Y V P T H Q
A G P T T A I I J M G C U D U F Q
S X J W E Z N N M D D A I T R O P
K K D P G G Z W G Y E X L R L V Y
L V E S U L C E R N W O R B F V N
N E H I M A N S D J D Z U W D Z S

Black Widow

Brown Recluse

Jumping

Peacock

Portia

Spitting

Tarantula

Trapdoor

Wolf