



"Spider Webs"

Reading Comprehension Assessment

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Name _____
 Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Spider Webs

All spiders spin webs. That's because webs help spiders. Webs help spiders do three things. Webs help spiders hold eggs. Webs help spiders hide. And webs help spiders catch food.

Webs help spiders hold eggs. Many spiders like to lay their eggs in their webs. The webs help keep the eggs together. Webs help spiders keep their eggs safe.

Webs help spiders hide. Most spiders are dark. They are brown, grey, or black. But spider webs are light. They are white and cloudy. When spiders hide in their webs, they are harder to see.

Webs help spiders catch food. Spider webs are sticky. When a bug flies into the web, it gets stuck. It moves around. It tries to get out. But it can't. It is **trapped!** Spiders can tell that the bug is trapped. That's because spiders feel the web move. And the spider is hungry. The spider goes to get the bug.

As you can see, webs help spiders hold eggs. Webs help spiders hide. And webs help spiders catch food. Without webs, spiders would not be able to live like they do. Spiders need their webs to **survive!**



- 1) This passage is mostly about
 - A. spider colors
 - B. spider webs
 - C. spider eggs

- 2) Spider webs help spiders
 - I. hold eggs
 - II. catch food
 - III. find water
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. I, II, and III

- 3) As used in paragraph 4, the word **trapped** most nearly means
 - A. stuck
 - B. hidden
 - C. eaten

- 4) How can spiders tell when something is trapped in their web?
- A. They hear it.
 - B. They smell it.
 - C. They feel it.
- 5) As used in the last sentence of the passage, the word **survive** means to stay
- A. alive
 - B. hidden
 - C. caught
- 6) The passage lists three reasons why spiders spin webs. Of these reasons, which do you think is the most important? How come?

- 7) Do you like spiders? Why or why not? Have you ever been scared by a spider? Have you ever been hurt by one? Have you ever helped one? Explain.

- 8) Are spiders good? Do we need them in our world? Why or why not?

1) **B**

Question Type: Global

At the beginning of the passage, the author writes, “All spiders spin webs.” After this, the author explains how spiders use their webs. Paragraph 2 focuses on how spider webs hold eggs. Paragraph 3 focuses on how spider webs help spiders hide. Paragraph 4 focuses on how spider webs help spiders catch food. Spider webs are mentioned in every paragraph. Using this information, we can tell that this passage is mostly about spider webs. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage mentions spider colors in paragraph 3, but it focuses mostly on spider webs. A passage that is mostly about spider colors would mention the topic in more than one paragraph. This means **(A)** is incorrect. The passage mentions spider eggs in paragraph 2, but it focuses mostly on spider webs. A passage that is mostly about spider eggs would mention the topic in more than one paragraph. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Webs help spiders hold eggs.” This lets us know that spider webs help spiders hold eggs. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 4, the author writes, “Webs help spiders catch food.” This lets us know that spider webs help spiders catch food. This supports **option (II)**. The author never mentions that spider webs help spiders find water. This means we can eliminate **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

3) **A**

Question Type: Vocabulary

trapped (*adjective*): caught; unable to move or escape.

In paragraph 4, the author writes, “It is trapped! We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to figure out what the word trapped most nearly means. Before this, the author writes, “When a bug flies into the web, it gets stuck. It moves around. It tries to get out. But it can’t.” From this, we can tell that something stuck cannot move around. Since this comes right before the author says, “It is trapped!”, we can tell that trapped means something like stuck. Using this information, we can tell that the word trapped most nearly means stuck. Therefore **(A)** is correct. Using the above information, we can tell that we are looking for the answer choice that means can’t move around or stuck. Hidden is not the same as not being able to move around. For instance, someone can hide and move around in the dark. This means **(B)** is incorrect. Using the above information, we can tell that we are looking for the answer choice that means can’t move around or stuck. Eaten is not the same as not being able to move around. The author mentions that a hungry spider goes to get the bug after it is trapped. This means the spider has not eaten it yet. This lets us know that the word trapped does not most nearly mean eaten. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

4) **C**

Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 4, the author writes, “Spiders can tell that the bug is trapped. That’s because spiders feel the web move.” Using this information, we can understand that spiders can tell when something is trapped in their web because they feel it. This means **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)** or **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **A**

Question Type: Vocabulary

survive (*verb*): to keep living; to stay alive.

In the last sentence, the author writes, “Spiders need their webs to survive!” We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to figure out what the word survive most nearly means. Before this sentence, the author describes how spider webs help spiders hold eggs, hide, and eat. All of these things are necessary for spiders to stay alive. Since the author says “As you can see...” at the beginning of this paragraph, we can tell he or she is referring to the previous paragraphs. Using this information, we can tell that the word survive most nearly means to stay alive. Therefore **(A)** is correct. Using the above information, we can tell that survive means to stay alive. Staying hidden is not the same as staying alive. This lets us know that the word survive does not most nearly mean to stay hidden. This means **(B)** is incorrect. Using the above information, we can tell that survive means to stay alive. Staying caught is not the same as staying alive. This lets us know that the word survive does not most nearly mean to stay caught. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.