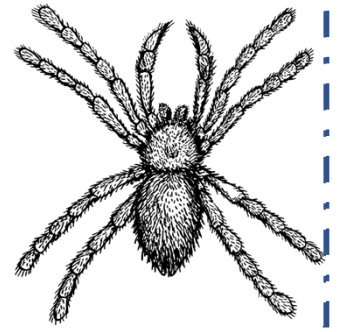


Tilly the Tarantula



I'm Tilly the Tarantula, and I'm here to spill the webby beans about my life. Buckle up, because it's a wild ride!

First things first, where do we tarantulas live and what do we call home sweet home? Well, picture a cozy hideout – that's our pad! You'll find us in deserts, forests, and grasslands. Some of us even chill in burrows underground. But don't worry, we're not creepy-crawly squatters; we just like our own space.

Now, let's talk food. We're not picky eaters – bugs are our jam! Crickets, grasshoppers, and the occasional beetle – yum! We're like the gourmet chefs of the spider world. When we spot a tasty treat, we pounce! Our fangs inject venom to turn our meal into a slurpable soup. Bon appétit!

Hunting is one of our super powers! Imagine being a ninja in fuzzy pajamas – that's us. We sneak up on unsuspecting insects, using our eight legs to tiptoe. Then, BAM! Fangs strike, and dinner is served. But shhh, it's a secret – don't tell the bugs!

We even like romance! Even us tarantulas get a fluttery feeling when it's time to find a soulmate, we tap our legs like Morse code. It's like saying, "Hey, wanna share a web together?" If the other spider wiggles back, it's a match! We dance, hold legs, and voilà – spider love!

Growing up can be hard for us. We shed our skin like a snake, but with more drama. It's called molting. Imagine unzipping your whole body of skin and stepping out – yep, that's us! We emerge soft and vulnerable, like a soggy marshmallow. But soon, we toughen up and rock our new exoskeleton.

What do we like? Sunbathing! We stretch out our legs, catch some rays, and pretend we're at a spider beach. But here's the scoop: we hate water. Raindrops feel like tiny anvils. And vacuum cleaners? Terrifying tornadoes! Also, don't call us "creepy." We prefer "elegantly eerie." That's the tarantula life. We're not just eight-legged nightmares; we're nature's architects, spinning silk into intricate webs. Remember, even spiders have secrets worth sharing!

1. *Read the reading passage thoroughly.*
2. *Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.*

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Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. What is the primary habitat of tarantulas?**
 - a. deserts, forests, and grasslands
 - b. arctic tundras
 - c. in logs

- 2. What do tarantulas like to eat?**
 - a. leaves and twigs
 - b. crickets and grasshoppers
 - c. fish and algae

- 3. How do tarantulas hunt their prey?**
 - a. squeezing them
 - b. injecting venom with their fangs
 - c. pouncing on them

- 4. How do tarantulas communicate when looking for a mate?**
 - a. tap their legs like Morse code
 - b. do a spider dance
 - c. make sounds with their mouth like Morse code

- 5. What do tarantulas dislike?**
 - a. water
 - b. humans
 - c. other spiders

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Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Do you think tarantulas get lonely, why or why not?
 2. How can we help protect the habitats of tarantulas?
 3. What do you now know about tarantulas?
 4. Describe a tarantula using details.
- How do you think tarantulas adapt to different environments, such as deserts or forests?
 - If you could interview a tarantula, what questions would you ask?
 - Why do you think tarantulas are often misunderstood or feared by humans?
 - If you were a spider scientist, what investigations would you conduct to learn more about the behaviors of tarantulas?
 - Compare and contrast a tarantula with another type of spider.
 - Conduct additional research about tarantulas.