

SCIENCE FUN AT HOME



Have some fun at home with these science activities from **Science Sparks** and the **Primary Science Teaching Trust**



BEFORE YOU START! Please read through this with an adult:

- * Make sure you have read the 'IMPORTANT NOTICE' on the back of this page.
- * If you have a space outside that you can use safely, then you can do the 'Try this outdoors' activity outside. Don't worry if not as you could still do it indoors.
- * Talk to your adult about sharing the science you have done and if they want to share on social media, please tag **@ScienceSparks** and **@pstt_whyhow** and use **#ScienceFromHome**

SPIDER SAFARI

1 TRY THIS INDOORS

Go on a spider safari around your home! Carefully explore where you live looking for spiders. If you find one draw what it looks like. You could also try and identify what type of spider it is. A free spider ID guide can be downloaded from:

<https://www.opalexplorenature.org/sites/default/files/7/file/Spiders-in-your-home.pdf>

You will need

- * Plain paper
- * Pencil
- * 4 x sticks or rulers
- * Elastic bands or string.
- * A spider ID guide (optional)
- * A mini-beast ID guide (optional)

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE? Things to talk about ...

How many types of spider did you find? Which type of spider was most common? Where do spiders like to live? What do spiders eat? Can you find spiders anywhere else, e.g. balcony, shed, garage, garden? Did you find any baby spiders? Or spider's eggs? Do the babies look like the adults?



2

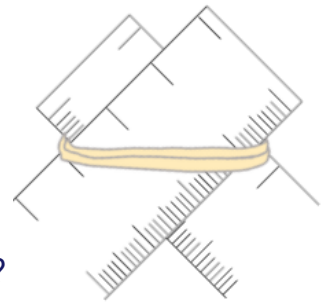
TRY THIS OUTDOORS ... WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE GREATEST NUMBER OF LIVING THINGS? ...

Tie 4 sticks or rulers together with rubber bands or string to make a frame. Choose a piece of ground and put down the frame. Identify how many different living things you can find inside the frame and record what they are. Now choose another piece of ground and repeat the above. If you cannot go outdoors, you could count how many different living things you can spot inside – what about ants, flies, people, or plants?

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?

Things to talk about ...

Where did you find the most/least living things? What types of plants and animals did you find? What was the most interesting thing you found? How do the plants and animals survive in the cold?



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WHAT IS THE SCIENCE?

There are 650 different species of spider found in the UK. Several of them share our living spaces; some stay the whole year round, whilst others have just found their way in through open windows or gaps beneath doors. Spiders are very important in our urban environment. They are eco-friendly pest controllers as they help to control the numbers of many nuisance household pests, like flies and clothes moths.

Living things include plants, like grass, trees and shrubs, and animals which will mostly be **invertebrates** (without backbones) like, slugs, woodlice, beetles, ants, bees, spiders, butterflies and woodlice. Ants, bees, butterflies and beetles are insects – they each have six legs. Spiders have eight legs and are not insects – they are called **arachnids**.

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MORE ACTIVITIES YOU COULD TRY

GO ON AN URBAN SAFARI <https://wowscience.co.uk/resource/the-opal-learning-lab/>

MAKE YOUR OWN WORMERY <https://www.science-sparks.com/make-your-own-wormery/>

ASK A BIOLOGIST, <https://wowscience.co.uk/resource/ask-a-biologist/>

DISSECT A FLOWER, <https://www.science-sparks.com/dissecting-flowers-and-more-plant-experiments/>

TAKE A SCIENCE SELFIE! Maybe you could show other people what you have been doing?

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Science Sparks and The Primary Science Teaching Trust are not liable for the actions or activity of any person who uses the information in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources. Science Sparks and The Primary Science Teaching Trust assume no liability with regard to injuries or damage to property that may occur as a result of using the information and carrying out the practical activities contained in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources.

These activities are designed to be carried out by children working with a parent, guardian or other appropriate adult. The adult involved is fully responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out safely.