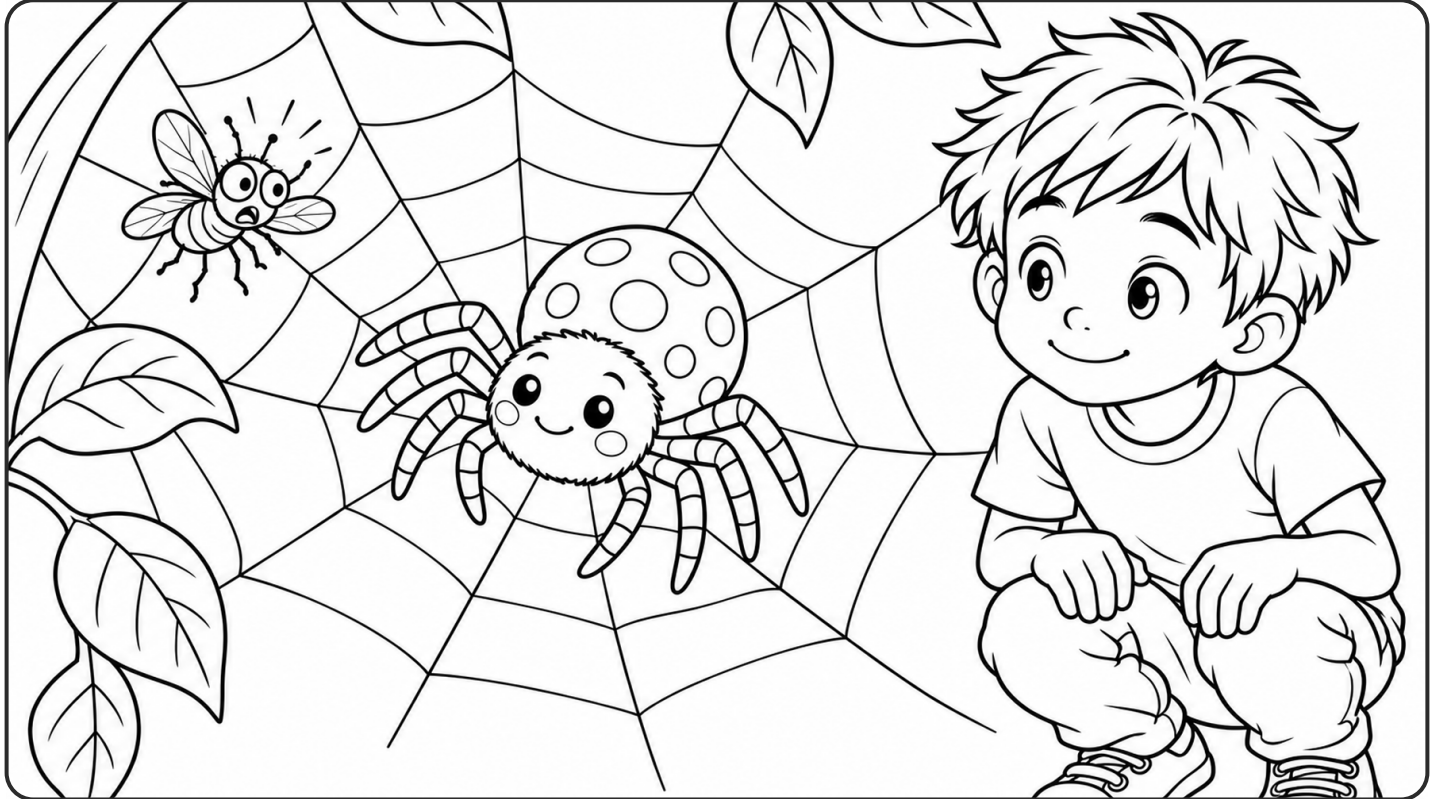


Why don't spiders get stuck in their own webs?



A spiderweb is sticky, so it can catch flies. But the spider runs all over it, and never gets stuck. How does the spider do that?



Why?

- 1. A spider can make different kinds of silk.**
Some threads are dry, and not sticky at all. Other threads are covered with tiny drops of glue.
- 2. The web has dry spokes and a sticky spiral.**
The spider starts with dry threads. It makes a frame, and then lots of spokes, like a bicycle wheel. Then it lays a long sticky spiral, with drops of glue like tiny beads. That's the part that catches bugs.
- 3. The spider walks on the dry spokes, on tippy-toes.**
It knows exactly which threads are sticky, and steps around them. When it does touch a sticky thread, it touches very gently, with just the tips of its feet. Tiny hairs and little hooks on its feet help, so it doesn't get stuck.

Try it! Web detective

You need: a misty morning, and a grown-up

- 1.** On a misty morning, go outside with a grown-up and look for a spiderweb on a bush or a fence.
- 2.** Tiny water drops make the threads easy to see.
- 3.** Can you find the spokes and the spiral? Just look, don't touch.

What happened? The spokes are the dry threads the spider walks on. The spiral is the sticky part that catches bugs.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/spider



scan with a grown-up