



Weave-A-Web Challenge

Materials:

Yarn or rope with a plastic spider attached to one end (approximately 20 feet long)

Dowel rod (or similar item) – Tie the loose end of the yarn around the rod and wrap the string around it

Objectives:

Students will be able to describe how a spider weaves a web and why not all spiders have webs.

Background:

- 🕸 Spiders belong to the class of arthropods known as *Arachnids*. Ticks, mites, and scorpions are also classified as arachnids.
- 🕸 All *Arachnids* have two body parts and four pairs of legs. The front body part is called the cephalothorax and the rear body part is the abdomen. The spinnerets used to create the silk for a web are located at the end of the abdomen. Refer to the diagram on the back of this page.
- 🕸 Some spiders are known as weaving spiders, which means they weave webs to help them catch prey.
- 🕸 Other species, referred to as wandering spiders, hunt their prey on air, land or water without the assistance of a web.

Game Instructions:

1 – Read the background information to the students.

2 - Divide students into 3 evenly-numbered teams. If the teams are not even, have one member of the group stand out for each round or recruit someone else (parent volunteer?) to join a group to make the groups even.

2 - Read the following directions:

1 – You will need to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a straight row. The first student in line will be the spider keeper and is responsible for unwrapping the string as the spider is passed from student to student. This student is also responsible for rewrapping the string as the spider returns back to him/her.

2 – When the teacher says “Go”, the first person in line (spider keeper) will need to “weave” the spider and the string up through one sleeve, across their chest, and out the other sleeve before handing it to the next person in line. The spider keeper will need to unwrap the string to make sure there is enough to “weave” the spider down the line to the last person in line.

3 – The next person in line does the same thing – through one sleeve and out the other - and this process continues until the spider has been “woven” through everyone in line. The last person in line must be show the spider to one of the teachers.

4 –At this point, the students need to “unweave” the spider and string until it gets back to the starting person. The spider keeper must rewrap the string neatly on the bar to finish the round. The first team to finish wins the round.

NOTE: Each student must weave the spider on their own without help from their teammates!

3 – Repeat the game for a total of 3 rounds. Give prizes to the team that won the most rounds overall – one prize per person.

ANATOMY OF A SPIDER

