

Spider Web Geometry

Funnel Web

Funnel or Triangle Webs

The main purpose of all webs is to catch prey. When talking about types of spider webs with kids keep in mind that, like snowflakes, no two spider webs are ever the same.

Funnel webs are another common web built by spiders. You can find them outdoors in short grasses or bushes. They can also be found between buildings. Triangle or funnel webs are three sided. Spiders that weave these types of webs wait for their prey at one end of the web. When an unsuspecting insect contacts the web, the spider shakes the strands to better catch the insect.

Sheet Web

Sheet Web

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Orb Web

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Orb weaving spiders do not have sharp vision. However, they can build beautiful and complicated webs. These spiders weave their round webs in open areas. Threads of dry silk extend from an orb web's center like the spokes of a bicycle wheel. Lines of sticky silk connect the spokes and serve to trap insects. The spiders discover food by feeling vibrations in their webs. Orb-weavers cut any inedible debris or insects out of the web with their fangs and drop them to the ground. Orb-weavers include argiope, garden spiders and wolf spiders.

Some orb weavers lie and wait for their prey in the center of the web. Others attach a trap line to the center of the web and then hide in a nest near the web and hold on to the trap line. When an insect lands in the web, the line vibrates. Those vibrations act as a signal to the spider to dart out and capture the insect. The webs are very delicate.

Many orb weavers take down and replace their web daily.

Tangle Web

Tangle Web

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Tangle-web weavers spin the simplest and most disorganized looking web. Tangle webs are made of a jumble of threads attached to support lines. These webs look messy, but they're effective for catching unsuspecting insects- perhaps because they don't look like a spider's web. Many types of garden spiders including the poisonous black widow spider, make tangled webs, usually in dark places.

*Information taken and modified slightly from:

http://insectlore.com/xinsectucational_stuff/instructions/gsw_instrux.html