GRADE LEVELS 2ND – 4TH

Spin Into Spider Science!

SPIDER

PASSAGES AND ACTIVITIES

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Two versions of a nonfiction bat article** (color + B&W)
- **Vocabulary word list and cut-and-paste activity**
- **Note-taking sheets and graphic organizers**
- **Comprehension questions and cloze reading activity**
- **Fact sort activity and writing pages**
- **Answer key**
- **QR codes and safe research links**
- **Google Slides version available**

types of a specific animal

species

silk

a very soft, but strong fiber that can be woven into cloth

VOCABULARY CARDS

Name: _____

Spider Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition

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Spider Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

species	**population**	something that harms something else	an anim hun pre
prey	**fluid**	types of a specific animal	some for
egg sac	**enemy**	a very soft, but strong fiber that can be woven into cloth	all an
pesticide	**silk**	a liquid that does not have its own shape	a

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Name: _____

Spider Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

species

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

Non-Examples

population

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

Non-Examples

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VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

WITHOUT PHOTOS

WITH PHOTOS

While You're Reading

Mark with Symbols	
!	when you find something interesting
?	when you are unsure or confused by something
*	when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors	
yellow	vocabulary words or key words
green	key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations	
symbol or color	meaning

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Spider

Some people are afraid of creepy and crawly spiders. Spiders may look scary, but are spiders as bad as people think?

More than 45,000 species of spiders can be found all over the world. Only a few are considered dangerous to humans. All spiders have a very important job: controlling the insect population. If there weren't any spiders, insects would destroy most crops and hurt the world's food supply.

Appearance

Spiders come in many different sizes depending on their kind. They can be as small as the Samoan Moss Spider, which is 0.011 inches long, or as big as the Goliath Birdeater which has a leg span of nearly a foot.

Some spiders can be smooth, while others are furry. They can be brown, black, or bright and colorful. They can have eight eyes, or only six. One thing all spiders have in common: They all have eight legs. Spiders are arachnids. All arachnids have 8 legs.

Diet and Feeding

The main dish on a spider's menu is insects. Spiders hunt their prey in many different ways. Most people think about spider webs. This is a great way for spiders to catch their dinner, but not all of them spin webs. Some spiders build traps in the ground and leap out as their prey walks by.

Spiders cannot swallow their food. Instead, they inject fluids into their prey. The fluids turn the insides of the prey into liquid that the spider drinks.

Offspring

Every spider produces silk, even if they don't spin webs. One use of the silk is an egg sac. Spiders place their eggs inside the sac. They then place the sac in a safe place until the babies hatch. Often, the baby spiders stay in the sac until they are fully grown. Spiders can lay between 2-1,000 eggs, depending on the species.

The wolf spider has a unique way of caring for her babies. After the female places her eggs in the sac, she carries the sac with her. When the babies hatch, they climb on mother's back until they are fully grown. Mother spider carries them with her everywhere. If one baby falls off, she will stop until the baby gets back on.

Predators and T

Spiders have a lot of natu
such as birds, toads, lizards,
People see spiders as pests
There are many ways peopl
spiders. People step on the
use pesticides to kill them.

Next time you see a spider, know that it is probably more afraid of you than you are of it.

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Predators and Threats

Spiders have a lot of natural enemies, such as birds, toads, lizards, and wasps. People see spiders as pests or threats. There are many ways people get rid of spiders. People step on them, trap them, and use pesticides to kill them.

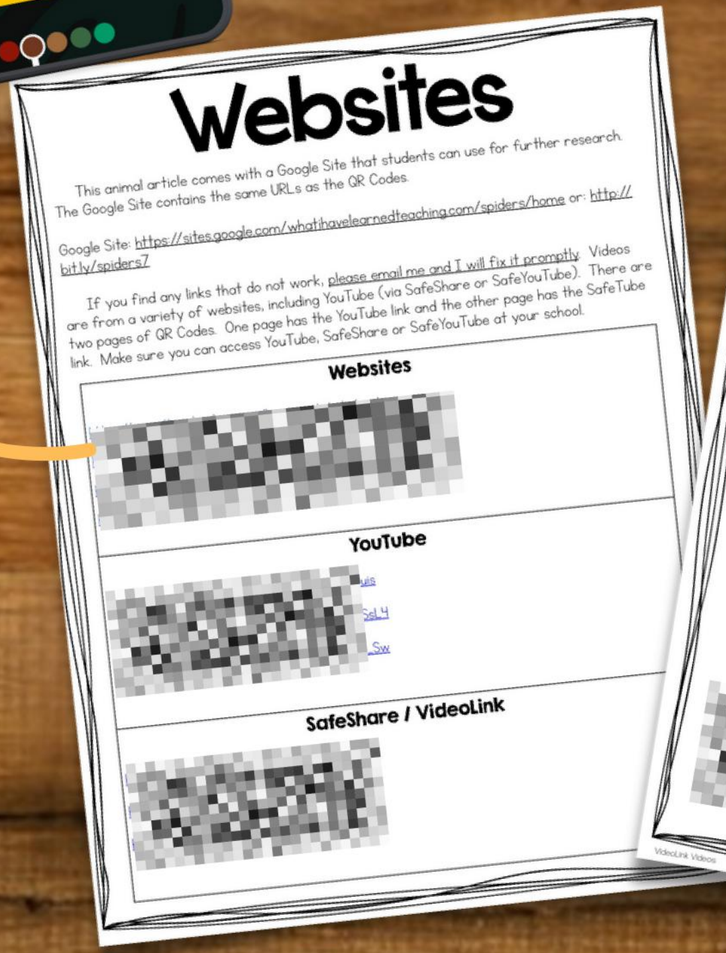
Next time you see a spider, know that it is probably more afraid of you than you are of it.

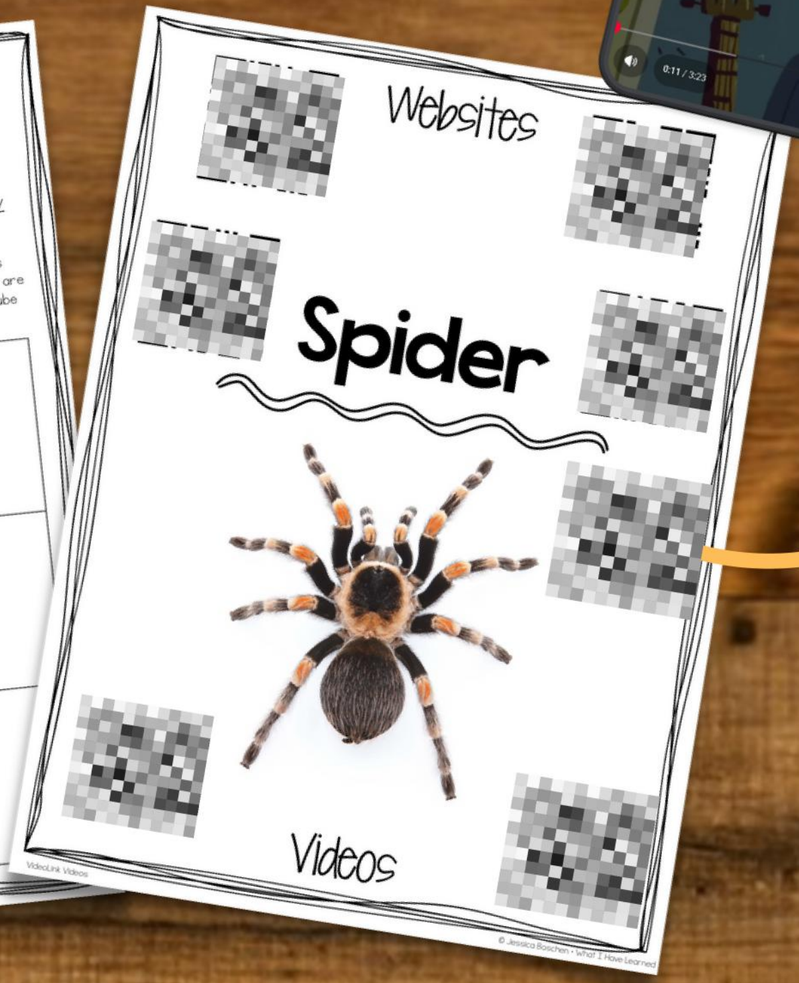
CLOSE READING BOOKMARK PAGE

INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

WEBSITES

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Explorers
animals & plants
videos
stories
activities
games
save animals
podcast
for grown ups
glossary
search
spider
Silk and fangs
type
area
endangered status


Websites
This animal article comes with a Google Site that students can use for further research. The Google Site contains the same URLs as the QR Codes.
Google Site: https://sites.google.com/whatihavelearnedteaching.com/spiders/home or: http://bit.ly/spiders7
If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube (via SafeShare or SafeYouTube). There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube link and the other page has the SafeTube link. Make sure you can access YouTube, SafeShare or SafeYouTube at your school.
Websites
YouTube
SafeShare / VideoLink


Websites
Spider
Videos
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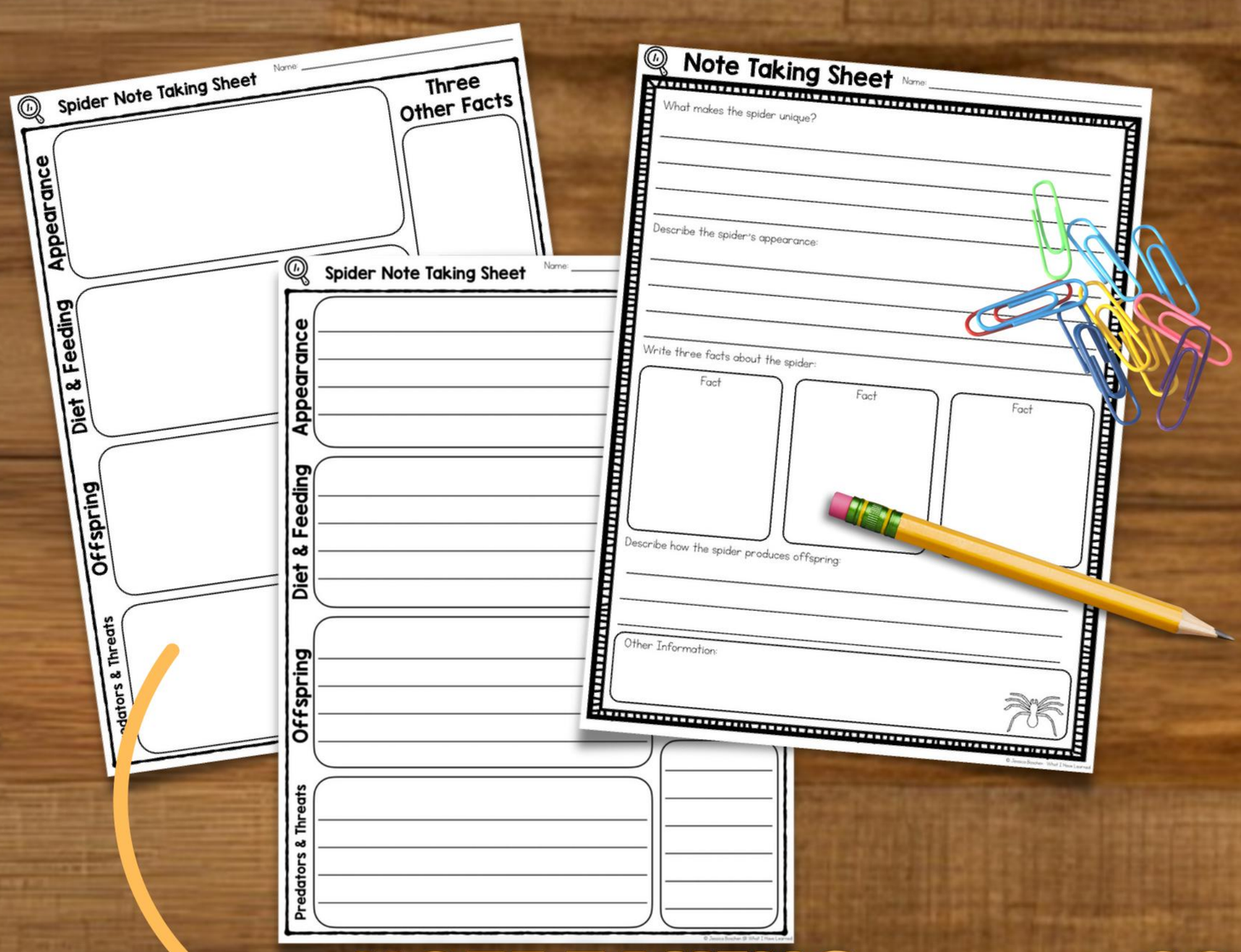
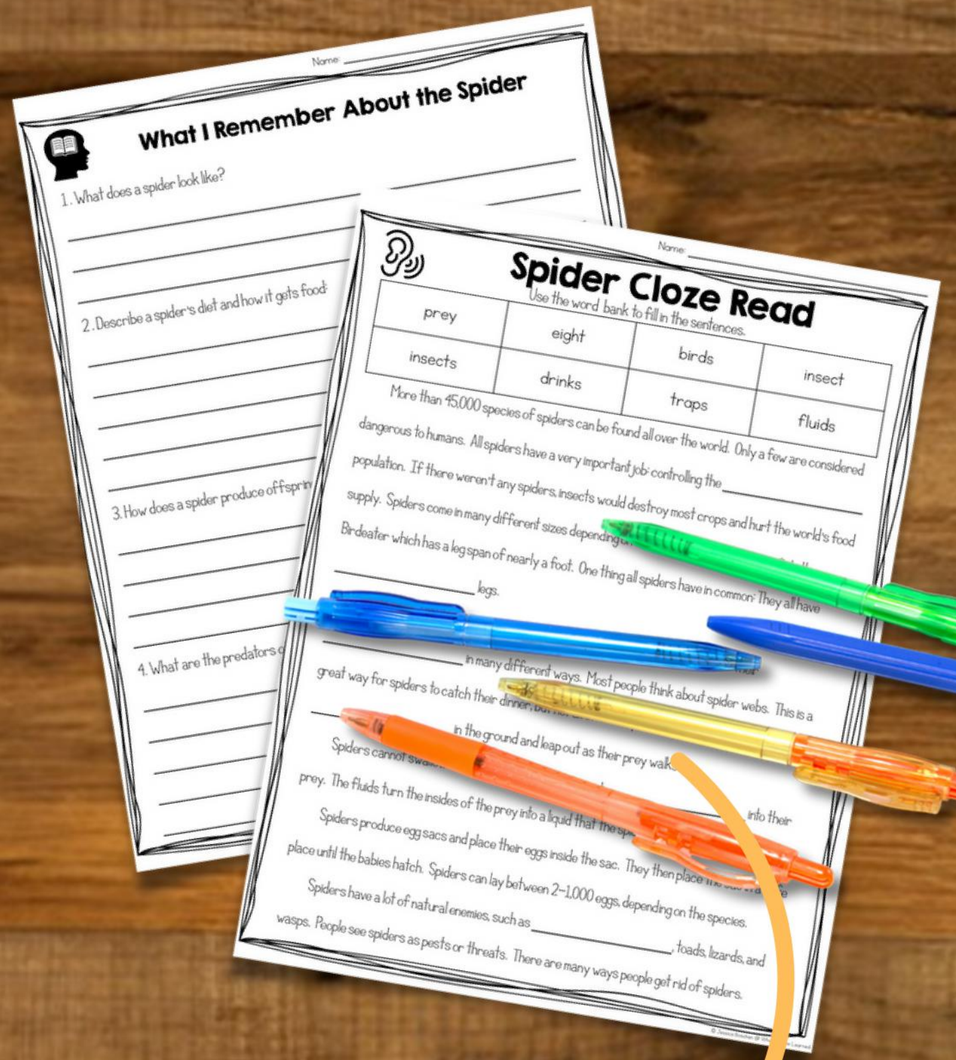
Tarantula
0:11 / 3:23





NOTE TAKING SHEETS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes
looks, has, is

Actions
does, can

Environment
where it lives

Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

Spiders place their eggs inside the sac. They then place the sac in a safe place until the babies hatch.	More than 45,000 species of spiders can be found all over the world.	Instead, they inject fluids into their prey.
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Some spiders build tra… ground and leap ou… prey walks by.	…w are considere… danger…	…think about spider webs.
If there were… insects would destroy most … and hurt the world's f…	…	…iders have a very …ntrolling the …ation.
People step on ther… and use pesticides to …	…	Not all spiders spin webs.
They can have eight … only six.	…s come in many different sizes depending on their kind.	Spiders have a lot of natural enemies, such as birds, toads, lizards, and wasps.
Spiders hunt their prey in many different ways.	People see spiders as pests or threats.	One thing all spiders have in common: They all have eight legs.

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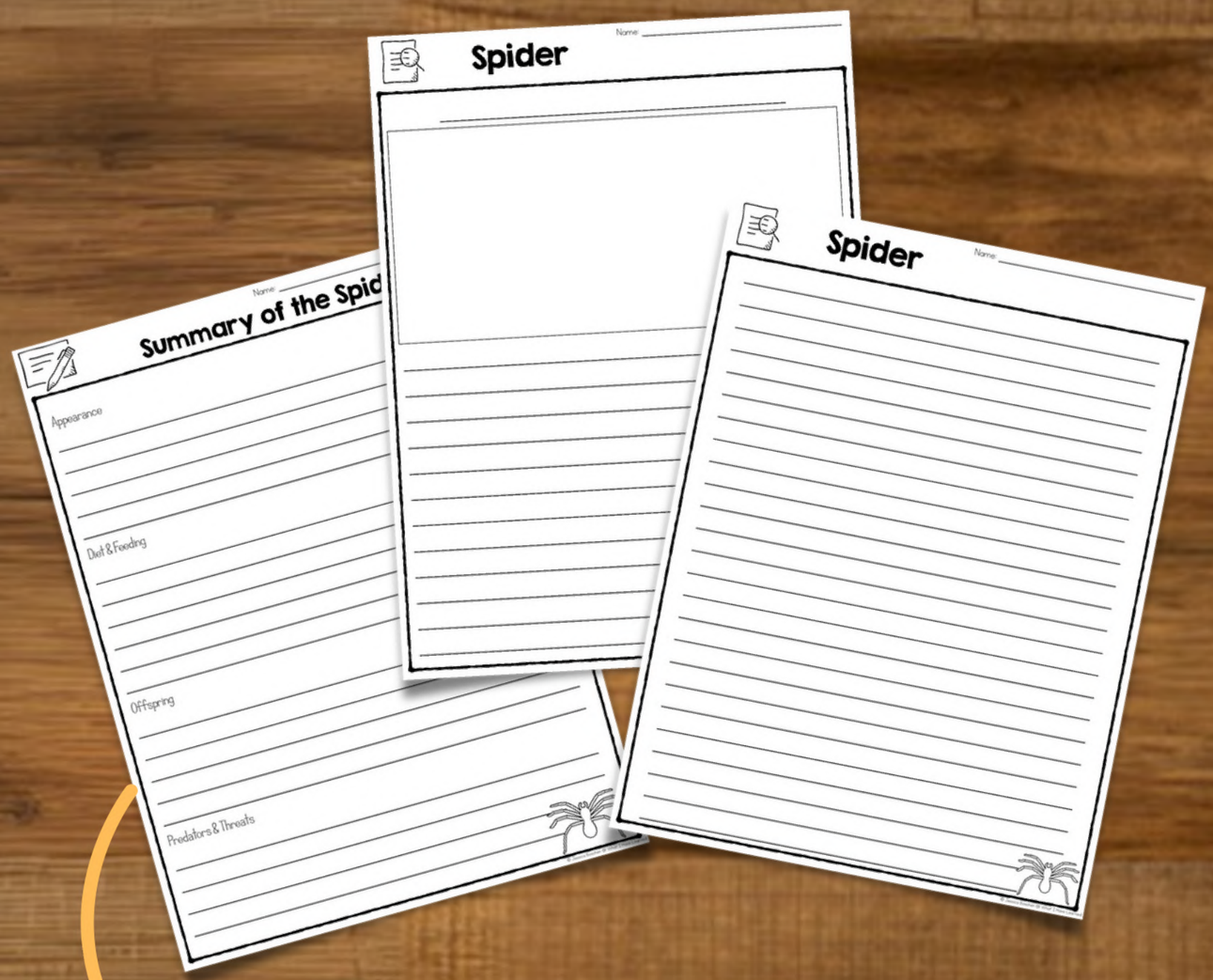
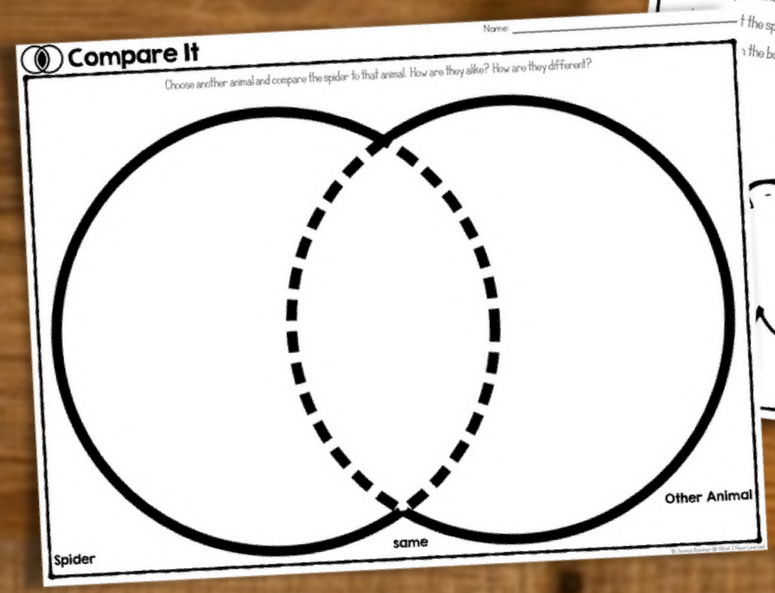
FACT SORT

SAMPLE PROJECT FOR FACT SORT

While this is for a differnet animal, it gives you an idea of how students can do the fact sort.





SUMMARY PAGE AND WRITING PAGES

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

HOW TO USE IT IN THE CLASSROOM

- **Read & Explore** – Read the article, watch videos, scan QR codes
- **Build Vocabulary** – Use word cards, match-ups, and Frayer models
- **Comprehend & Sort** – Answer questions, do cloze reading, sort facts
- **Take Notes** – Fill graphic organizers with gathered research
- **Write a Report** – Draft reports using printables or digital slides

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE

Cross-Curricular Connections

Students practice nonfiction reading and writing while building science content knowledge about spider traits, habitats, and adaptations.

Differentiated Reading Levels

Two versions of the raven article ensure accessibility for diverse readers while still supporting rigorous comprehension and vocabulary practice.

Time-Saving & Ready-to-Use

Pre-made passages, activities, and answer keys make lesson prep effortless—everything is organized and classroom-ready in minutes.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

I used this resource as informational to write an essay on the life cycle of a spider. We were focusing on organization and writing in time ordered events. It really helped students construct an essay in great form and chronological order.

Paige B.

A great addition to our studies on habitats and animals. These are very informational and a "one-stop shop" for learning about various animals in various habitats. Thank you!

Heather B.

My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning. Breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.

teach MATH | teach SCIENCE | teach READING | teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED