Name: _____ Date: _____

Jumping Spiders See the World in Close-Up

Circle group

Many spiders catch food in webs and wait. Jumping spiders do not. They hunt in the open, like tiny cats. They rely on very good eyes.

A jumping spider has eight eyes. Two big ones face straight forward. They work a bit like the lenses of a camera. These eyes can see small details sharply, which is rare for such a small animal. The other six eyes are smaller. They notice movement from the sides and from behind. When something moves, the spider turns to look at it with its big eyes.

When a jumping spider spots an insect, it does not rush. It creeps closer, slowly, and keeps low. When it is near enough, it crouches and leaps. Many of these spiders can jump many times their own body length.

The spider has a safety trick. As it walks, it lets out a fine line of silk behind it, called a dragline. If the spider misses a jump or falls, the dragline helps catch it. Then it can climb back up.

A jumping spider is small enough to sit on a fingertip. But it is a careful hunter.

Questions

1. How do jumping spiders catch food?

_____

_____

2. How many eyes does a jumping spider have?

_____

_____

3. What are the two big front eyes good at?

_____

_____

4. What do the smaller eyes notice?

_____

_____

5. What does a spider use a dragline for?

_____

_____

6. Why is the spider like a tiny cat?

_____

_____

Words to know

lenses: curved pieces of glass or clear tissue that focus light
sharply: in a very clear way
crouches: bends low to the ground
dragline: a safety thread of silk trailing behind a spider
rely: to depend on something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Jumping Spiders See the World in Close-Up

Triangle group

Many spiders catch food in webs and wait for it to arrive. Jumping spiders do not. They hunt in the open, like tiny cats, and they rely on very good eyes.

A jumping spider has eight eyes. Two big ones face straight forward, and they work a bit like the lenses of a camera. These eyes can see small details sharply, which is rare for such a small animal. The other six eyes are smaller, and they are good at noticing movement from the sides and from behind. When something moves, the spider turns to look at it with its big eyes.

When a jumping spider spots an insect, it does not rush. It creeps closer, slowly, keeping low and still when it needs to. When it is near enough, it crouches and leaps. Many of these spiders can jump many times their own body length.

The spider has a safety trick. As it walks, it lets out a fine line of silk behind it, called a dragline. If the spider jumps and misses, or if it falls, the dragline helps catch it so it can climb back up.

A jumping spider is small enough to sit on a fingertip, yet it is a careful and clever hunter.

Questions

1. How do jumping spiders catch food?

_____

_____

2. How many eyes does a jumping spider have?

_____

_____

3. What are the two big front eyes good at?

_____

_____

4. What do the smaller eyes notice?

_____

_____

5. What does a spider use a dragline for?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage compare the spider to a tiny cat?

_____

_____

Words to know

lenses: curved pieces of glass or clear tissue that focus light
sharply: in a very clear way
crouches: bends low to the ground
dragline: a safety thread of silk trailing behind a spider
rely: to depend on something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Jumping Spiders See the World in Close-Up

Square group

Many spiders trap their food in webs and then wait for it to arrive. Jumping spiders do nothing of the kind. They hunt in the open, much like tiny cats, and they depend upon exceptionally good eyesight.

A jumping spider has eight eyes. Two large ones face straight ahead, and they function somewhat like the lenses of a camera. These eyes can see small details sharply, which is unusual for such a tiny animal. The other six eyes are smaller, and they are skilled at noticing movement from the sides and from behind. Whenever something moves, the spider swivels around to examine it with its big eyes.

When a jumping spider spots an insect, it does not rush forward. Instead, it creeps closer slowly, staying low and still whenever necessary. Once it is near enough, it crouches and leaps. Many of these spiders can jump many times their own body length.

The spider also has a safety trick. As it walks, it releases a fine line of silk behind it, called a dragline. If the spider misses a jump, or if it tumbles off an edge, the dragline helps catch it so that it can climb back up.

A jumping spider is small enough to sit on a fingertip, yet it is a careful and clever hunter.

Questions

1. How do jumping spiders catch their food?

_____

_____

2. How many eyes does a jumping spider have?

_____

_____

3. What are the two large front eyes skilled at?

_____

_____

4. What do the smaller eyes notice?

_____

_____

5. What does a spider use a dragline for?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage compare the spider to a tiny cat?

_____

_____

Words to know

lenses: curved pieces of glass or clear tissue that focus light
sharply: in a very clear way
crouches: bends low to the ground
dragline: a safety thread of silk trailing behind a spider

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Jumping Spiders See the World in Close-Up

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Jumping Spiders See the World in Close-Up

Easier · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. They hunt in the open instead of waiting in webs.
2. Eight.
3. Seeing small details sharply.
4. Movement from the sides and from behind.
5. It helps catch the spider if it falls or misses a jump.
6. It stalks and then pounces instead of waiting for food.

Triangle: Jumping Spiders See the World in Close-Up

This passage · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. They hunt in the open instead of waiting in webs.
2. Eight.
3. Seeing small details sharply.
4. Movement from the sides and from behind.
5. It helps catch the spider if it falls or misses a jump.
6. Like a cat, it stalks and then pounces instead of waiting for food to come.

Square: Jumping Spiders See the World in Close-Up

Harder · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. They hunt in the open instead of waiting in webs.
2. Eight.
3. Seeing small details sharply.
4. Movement from the sides and from behind.
5. It helps catch the spider if it falls or misses a jump.
6. Like a cat, it stalks and then pounces instead of waiting for food to come.