

### Find out

How many legs does a spider have? Spiders belong to a group of creatures called Arachnids. Find out about them here:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/arachnids/>

Another type of minibeast group is the Insects. Find out about them here:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/insects/> How many legs do insects have?

Choose some different arachnids or insects to draw and find out how to write their names.

### Blackbirds Class - Reception

Our work this fortnight is inspired by Eric Carle's book, 'The Very Busy Spider'.

Start by watching the story. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhkZi28sE\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhkZi28sE_E)

### Explore

Go out on a bug hunt in your garden or out on a walk. This link has lots of ideas for how to plan a bug hunt:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/04/minibeast-hunt/>

Make a list of what you have found. You could draw pictures, write the name, or both. Look very carefully at the creatures you find - how many legs does it have? Have you found an arachnid, an insect or something else? Remember that if you pick anything up, you must put it back exactly where you found it, as that is its habitat (home).

Watch how spiders make their webs:

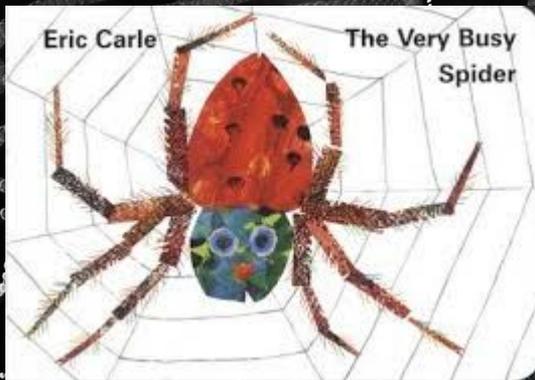
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNtSAQHNONo>

Now see if you can find any spider webs anywhere? Where were they? Had the spider caught anything? Did you see a spider? What shape was the web?

### Present

Make your own little book inspired by the story of 'The Very Busy Spider'. What animals will the spider meet in your book?

Make your own information book about spiders or another sort of minibeast. Include pictures and writing. Design an eye-catching cover. You might want to write a little bit of your book each day.



### Wonder

Do you like spiders? Why do you like or dislike them? Some people are scared of spiders. Why do you think that is? Do you think they should be? Should we kill spiders that we find in our house? Explain why you think we should or shouldn't.

### Create

In the USA, there is a beautiful museum called the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Eric Carle made his pictures by creating his own paper and then using it to create collages. Perhaps you could have a go at making a minibeast picture inspired by the art of Eric Carle. You could paint pieces of paper in different shades and then use them for your picture.

There are some lovely ideas for art projects on the museum website. They encourage you to explore art, not just to make a particular thing. Here are two good projects to have a go at:

- Explore light, shadow and reflections in art.

<https://www.carlemuseum.org/blogs/making-art/reflect-refract-reimage>

- Create pop-up pictures, cards or books

<https://www.carlemuseum.org/blogs/making-art/pop-ups-and-paper-construction>

### Make a Difference

If you have a garden, find out about how you can make it more wildlife-friendly. There are some ideas in this Springwatch clip:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07bwq11>

Perhaps you could plant some things to attract invertebrates, or choose a section of the garden where you can let wild plants grow (even stinging nettles!). Making a pond is a big job, but here is some information about making a mini-pond:

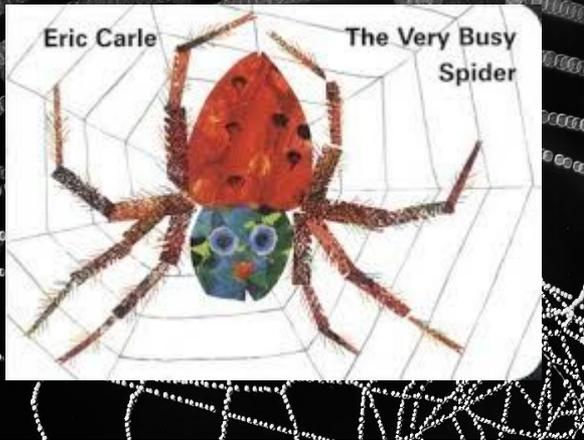
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/make-a-mini-pond/>

There are lots more ideas of ways to make a difference helping wildlife that you can do when you look out of the window, go in your garden or go out on a walk. Have a look on this page:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/RVN7BFtLDybfqKbQrcZBB/keep-doing-your-bit-for-wildlife>

### Your Choice

This is your chance to think of what you would like to do in response to the story and the learning this fortnight.



## Maths with The Very Busy Spider

White Rose Maths (the maths progression scheme that we follow in school) have a week of really lovely maths learning for Reception available online. It is all based around the story of The Very Busy Spider.

There are five days of different fun and practical maths activities. Each day, however, has a lot of things to do, so do not feel that you need to accomplish it all in one day, as well as other learning. Feel free to spread each day out for as long as you like, exploring the different elements as much or as little as you think is relevant for your child.

The week of maths can be found on the White Rose website, in the home learning Early Years section - week 4. (It says 11th May, but don't worry about that!)

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/early-years/>

Here are some examples of some of the activities during the week:

**Starting with a Story** Reception

**Talking Together**

Let's look closely how the spider does it!  
Can you follow the steps? Draw your own web! This builds a pattern going outwards! An orb pattern.

White Rose Maths

**Talking Together**

**Spot the mistake.**

The very busy spider caught 6 flies.  
Then she ate 2.  
Now she has 2 left.  
Is she correct?

White Rose

**Starting with a Story** Reception

**Talking Together**

Roll the dice (remember how we made one from a tissue cube. There is also a roll dice app.) Look at which part of a spider you can draw. The winner is the first to draw a complete spider.

	body		eye
	leg		feeler
	head		spinnerets

White Rose Maths

**Starting with a Story** Reception

**Talking Together**

If you have made a sticky web with tape, see who can get the most flies to stick to it! (You could use pom poms or we used other rolled up tape.) Roll 10 or 20 "flies" and see how many go into your web or are outside your web. You can do this on the floor like these pictures with tape or just chalk.

What else will you catch in your web?

White Rose Maths