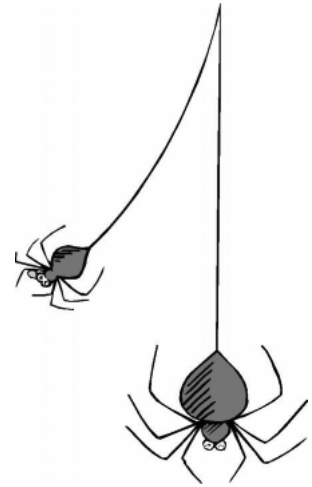


Creating a Spider Vivarium

Materials

In order to create a spider vivarium, each group will need:

- Soil
- An aquarium or one-gallon jar
- A small wet sponge
- Leaves, rocks, and branches
- Cheesecloth and tape
- A flashlight
- A plastic container or net for catching spiders and insects (optional)



Instructions

Refer to the [Southwest Educational Development Laboratory: Spider Vivarium Activity](http://www.sedl.org/scimath/pasopartners/spiders/lesson1a2.html) for detailed instructions on how to conduct this activity with your students. (<http://www.sedl.org/scimath/pasopartners/spiders/lesson1a2.html>)

Observation Questions

Ask students to observe the spider in the vivarium over the next few days and answer the following questions:

1. Does the spider move around much?
2. Is the spider eating the leaves?
3. Do you think the spider is able to sense noise?
4. Do you think the spider likes its new home?
5. Darken the room and use a flashlight. Do you think the spider can sense light?
Does it like light?
6. Did the spider spin a web on the branch?
7. Have you noticed anything else about the spider?

Have students record their observations of the spider in their journals. After observing the spider for a few days, each group should work cooperatively to decide what type of spider is living in the vivarium. Ask them to verify their decision by describing the characteristics of that particular type of spider. Discuss what was learned during observations of the spider.