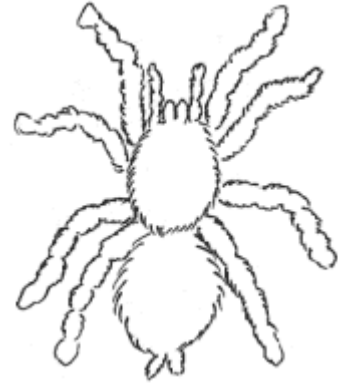


# Suzy's World

## Spiders - Where do you find the world's biggest spiders?

### Fact

- The largest spider ever found was a Goliath bird-eating Tarantula and it is found in the tropical jungles of Latin America.
- Tarantula spiders are also found in places like Africa, India, Malaysia and Thailand
- Tarantulas don't spin webs, they stalk their prey, pounce and stab them with fangs.
- A well-fed Tarantula can go without food for a year, but when they do eat they like to catch their prey live and eat anything from insects to small mice and birds.

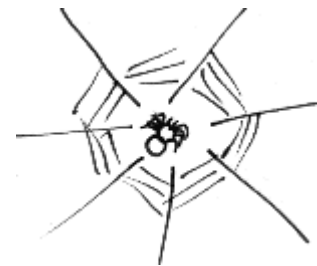


### Do you know

- Tarantulas are cold-blooded.
- They like to live in warm, humid conditions.
- Tarantulas shed their skin regularly as they grow and once they are adults they shed their skin about twice a year to replace damaged or missing legs and to replenish their hair.
- The female Tarantula is bigger and lives longer than a male Tarantula.
- New Zealand has 1500 identified spiders.
- The Otago Museum has the largest collection of preserved spiders in the world - 3,000 jars.
- Spiders are not insects because insects have six legs and spiders have eight

### Experiments you can do

You won't find a Tarantula around your house, here in New Zealand, but have a hunt around and see what kind of spiders do share your house. Do they build webs? What kind of webs? And what kind of food do they eat?



### Other Investigations

Can you find out for me why Tarantulas are hairy?

Check out your friendly house spider. Which one is the biggest in your house or garden? How do they build their web? Can you see any food stored in the web? Carefully, break the web down. How long does it take the spider to rebuild its web? Does it build it in the same place?