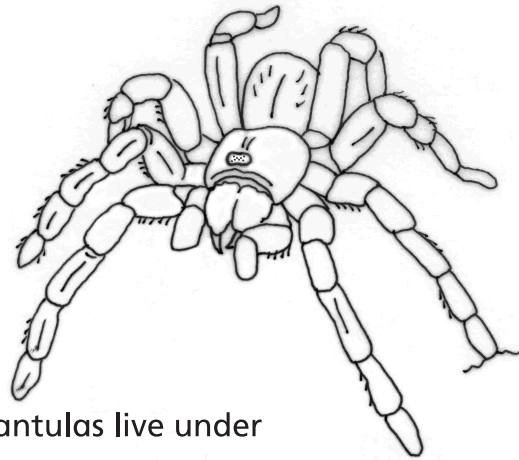


BIOLOGY

Invertebrates. Tarantulas.

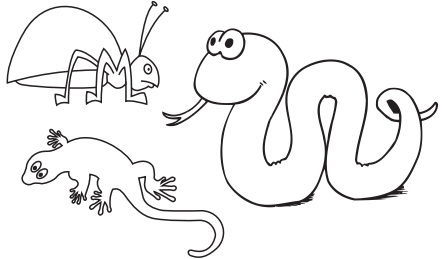
1 Read and answer.

Tarantulas are big, hairy spiders. They haven't got a backbone; they are invertebrates.



Where do they live?

There are tarantulas in Africa, Asia and Australia, but most of them live in North and South America. Some tarantulas live under the ground, some live on the ground and others live in trees.



What do they eat?

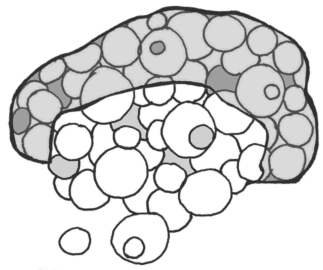
Tarantulas are carnivores. They eat insects like grasshoppers and beetles. Big tarantulas eat small lizards, snakes and frogs. They kill their prey with their poisonous fangs. They usually hunt at night.

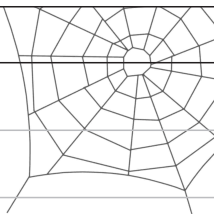
Do tarantulas kill people?

Tarantulas kill small animals but they don't kill people.

Do tarantulas have babies?

No, tarantulas don't have babies. They lay eggs. Female tarantulas lay between 50 and 2,000 eggs. After six or seven weeks the young spiders hatch from the eggs.



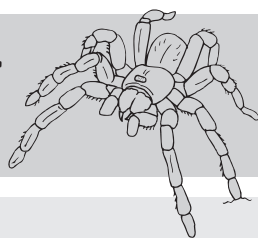
QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1. Have tarantulas got a backbone?	
2. Where do they live?	
3. What do they eat?	
4. Do tarantulas kill people?	
5. Do they have babies or lay eggs?	
6. Other information.	

2 What do you think? Choose one answer.

Tarantulas breathe through **lungs / gills**. Some tarantulas can live for **25 / 60** years. Tarantulas have got a hairy body. Their body has got two big parts. They have got **six / eight** legs. Tarantulas have got **four / eight** eyes but they can't see very well. Tarantulas change their body temperature with the environment; they are **cold-blooded / warm-blooded** animals.



Invertebrates. Tarantulas.



Aim

- To study the main characteristics of tarantulas.

Language focus

Key vocabulary: *backbone, invertebrate, carnivore, ground, poisonous fangs, hunt, hairy, kill, babies, eggs, breathe through lungs.*

Key language: *Where do tarantulas live? Tarantulas have got eight eyes. They are hairy.*

Materials

- (Optional) Pictures of tarantulas.
- Worksheet.

Warm-up

- Ask the pupils to name some animals with four legs (eg, *horses, dogs, cats*). Continue with animals with two legs (eg, *ducks, parrots, eagles*), animals that have babies (eg, *lions, dogs, whales*), animals that lay eggs (eg, *parrots, snakes, crocodiles*), animals with a backbone (eg, *tigers, eagles, frogs*), animals that haven't got a backbone (eg, *butterflies, snails, grasshoppers*), etc. Make sure you include animals with eight legs (eg, *spiders, scorpions*). (NB spiders and scorpions are *arachnids*, not *insects*; insects have six legs.) Elicit complete sentences, eg, *Horses have got four legs. Lions have babies.* etc.
- Find out how many pupils like spiders. Say *Put your hand up if you like spiders*. Elicit some information about spiders from the class. Ask them some questions like *How many legs have spiders got? Where do they live?* but don't give them too much information at this stage. Encourage the pupils to make complete sentences, eg, *Spiders have got eight legs.*

Completing the Worksheet

Activity 1

- Play hangman with the word *tarantula* (give the pupils a clue by telling them that it's an animal).

- Ask one of the pupils to draw a tarantula on the board. Show the class pictures of tarantulas if these are available.
- Write the questions in Activity 1 on the board and check comprehension orally. Ask the pupils to copy the questions in their notebooks and guess the answers. Tell them to write down anything else they know about tarantulas. Get feedback but don't correct mistakes at this point.
- Hand out copies of the worksheet. Ask the pupils to read the text and underline the answers to the questions in the text. Then get them to compare their answers in pairs and write the answers in the table on the worksheet. Check answers with the class.
- Ask the pupils to compare the answers they wrote in their notebooks with the answers on their worksheets.

Answers: 1 No, tarantulas haven't got a backbone. They are invertebrates. 2 They live in Africa, Asia, Australia and North and South America. 3 They eat grasshoppers, beetles, lizards, snakes and frogs. 4 No, tarantulas don't kill people. 5 Tarantulas don't have babies. They lay eggs. 6 Other information: Tarantulas are big hairy spiders. They live under the ground, on the ground or in trees. They are carnivores. They kill their prey with their poisonous fangs. They usually hunt at night. Female tarantulas lay between 50 and 2,000 eggs. The young spiders hatch from the eggs after six or seven weeks.

Fast finishers

Ask fast finishers to draw a tarantula in their notebooks.

Activity 2

- Read the text with the class. Don't let the pupils write anything yet – make sure they don't pick up their pens. Encourage them to guess which of the two options is the correct answer.
- Ask individual pupils to read out one of the sentences, including the option they think is correct. Ask the rest of the class if they agree.
- Pupils then read the text individually and circle the options they think are correct. Check answers with the class.

Answers: lungs; 25; eight; eight; cold-blooded

Extension activity

More invertebrate animals.

- Remind the class that spiders haven't got a backbone and are therefore invertebrates.

Ask the pupils if they can remember the names of some other invertebrate animals (possible examples include *snail, octopus, jellyfish, worm, starfish, grasshopper, butterfly, mosquito, bee*).

- Ask the pupils to draw some invertebrates in their notebooks under the title *Invertebrates*. They can write sentences next to the animals, eg, *Bees haven't got a backbone. Bees are invertebrates.*

