

Comprehension Collection

GRADE 5

REM 171E

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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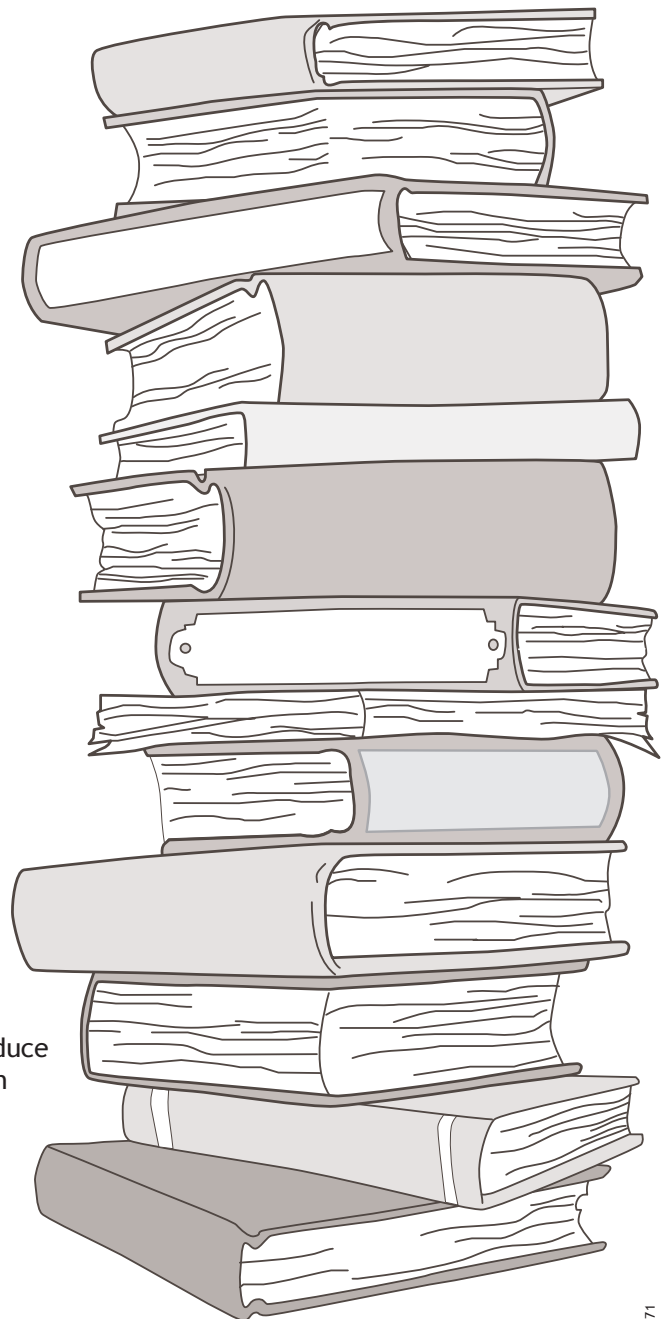
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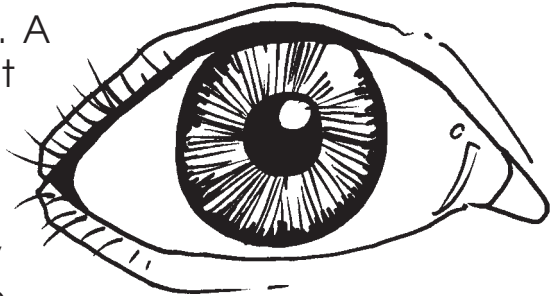
Why do the pupils of the eyes change size?

The pupil of the eye is the black circle in the middle. It has muscles all around it that can stretch or shrink.

The pupils allow light to enter the eyes. A balance of just the right amount of light is needed for good sight. In bright light, the eyes don't need to take in a lot of light, so the pupils will become small.

In darkness, the pupils will open very wide and let in as much light as possible.

An example of how light affects the eyes is when a person is in a dark room and someone turns on a light. It may actually be painful to keep the eyes open for a second or two. The pupils are too large for all the light, but soon they shrink to the right size. This is how the eyes are protected and able to serve in all kinds of light.



1. What is the purpose of the pupil? _____

2. What controls the pupil so it can become large or small?

3. Write the sentence that tells what happens to the pupils in darkness. _____

4. What might you do to protect your eyes in bright sunlight?

5. What word in the first paragraph means "to become smaller"?

6. A homonym for "two" in paragraph four is _____
7. Write antonyms for these words: wrong _____
large _____, painful _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Read more about eyes. What part of the eye is different colors in different people?

Name _____

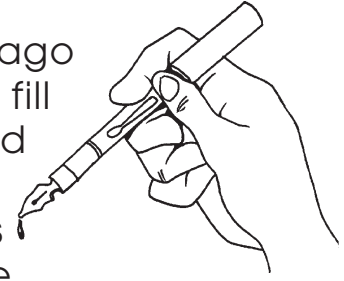
A ROUND POINT

Everyone uses ballpoint pens now, but 50 years ago they did not exist. People used pens that they had to fill with ink every time they became dry. They were called fountain pens. Fountain pens used a lot of ink.

During World War II, a special kind of pen was needed. It had to work in all kinds of weather, and the ink supply had to last a long time. Pilots needed a pen that would not leak ink at high altitudes, as fountain pens did.

It was during the war years that the ballpoint pen became popular. It was just what the armed forces wanted. It was long-lasting, it did not leak, and the ink dried quickly on paper.

It is called a ballpoint pen because the point is a tiny steel ball. As the pen is used, the ball revolves, picking up ink from a tube inside the pen.



Read each sentence. If it is true, circle the letter under T. Write the sentence that shows it is true. If it is NOT TRUE, circle the letter under F.

- | | T | F |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Ballpoint pens became popular during the war years. | Q | B |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |
| 2. People put ink into their fountain pens. | U | A |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |
| 3. The armed forces did not like the ballpoint pen. | W | I |
| _____ | | |
| 4. A ballpoint pen has a ball in it. | L | S |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |
| 5. No one uses ballpoint pens today. | T | L |
| _____ | | |

To learn what the very first kind of pen was called, write the letters you have circled on the line. _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Find the word you wrote in a dictionary. What was used to make this kind of pen?

Name _____

SPIDER PARTS

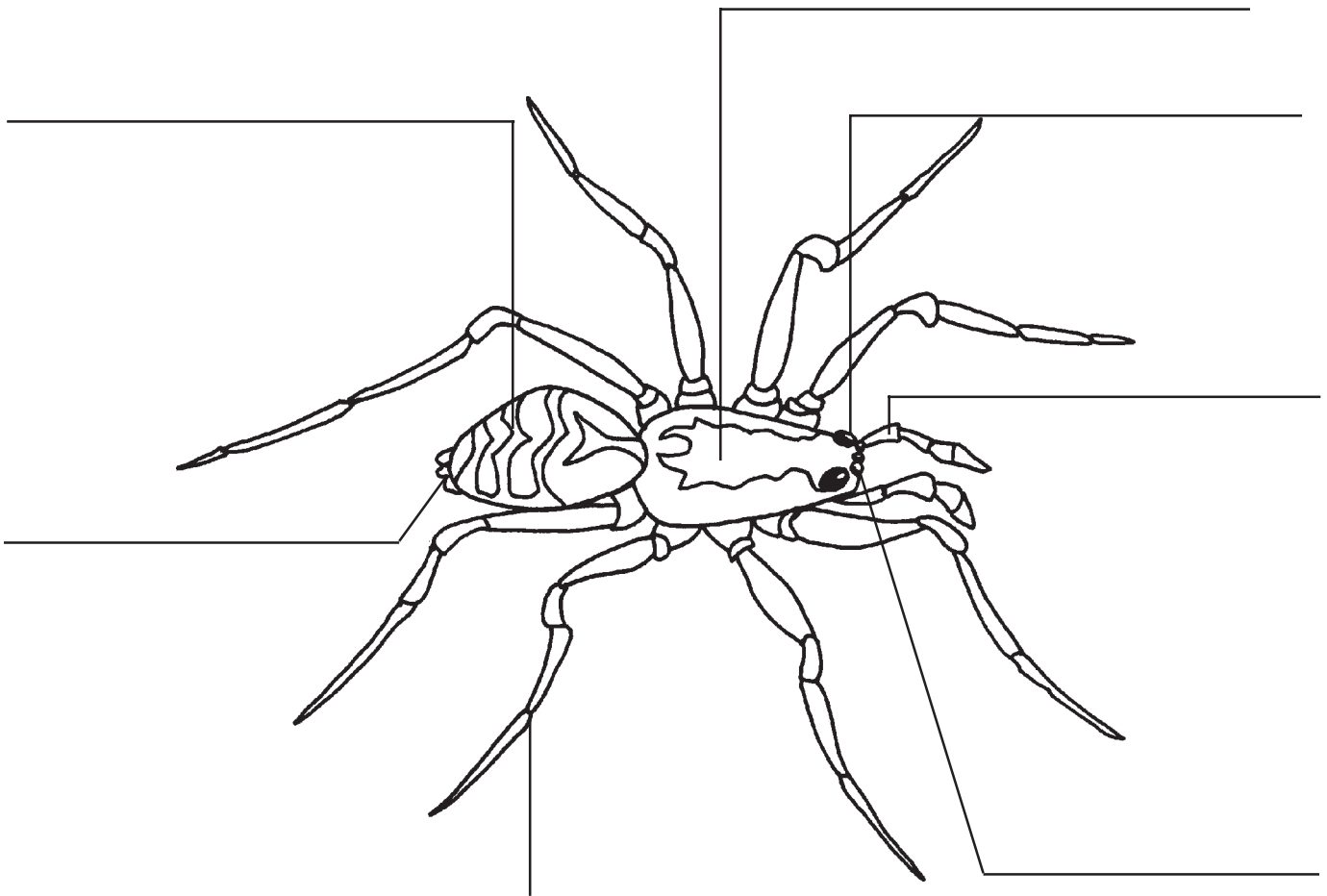
Spiders can be different sizes and different colors, but they all have certain parts in common. A spider's body has two parts. The larger, back part is called the **abdomen**. The front part, where the head and chest are found, is the **thorax**. All spiders have eight **legs** which are connected to the thorax.

Most spiders also have eight **eyes**, but they are not all the same size. Some are very small and they are grouped on the front of the head.

The spider's mouth has two strong jaws that end in sharp **fangs**. They also have short **pincers** near the mouth to help hold the insects.

All spiders have three tubes at the end of the abdomen that are called **spinnerets**. They are used to spin silk for webs and egg cases.

Label the parts.



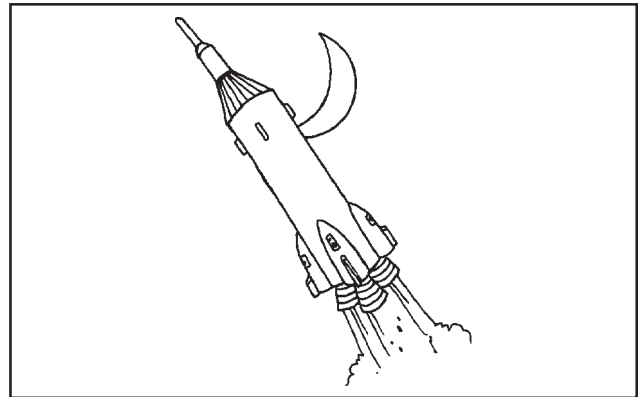
EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Read the description of an insect in a dictionary or encyclopedia. List three ways in which a spider is different from an insect.

THE DAILY NEWS

Man Wants to Build Space Machine

New York, March 5, 1921 - Robert H. Goddard is making news with his foolish talk about traveling to the moon. He says he can make a machine that will fly in outer space. Goddard calls his machine a rocket. He has never made one, but he has written about it.

It is true that a few years ago, people laughed at the idea that man could fly. Then the Wright brothers flew the first airplane. However, it is one thing to fly through air, and quite another to fly in outer space, where there is no air.



Still, Goddard keeps working on his idea. In 1914, he received a patent for his rocket, but he has yet to build one to prove it can fly in outer space.

Many people think it is time that people like Goddard stop trying to fool the public. Dreamers like him should start building useful things that will help people.

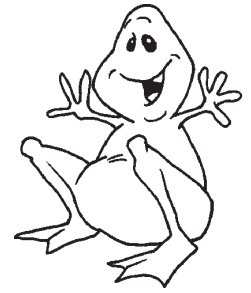
1. Who has a foolish idea? _____
2. What does he say he can make? _____
3. When did this story appear in the news? _____
4. Where does Goddard think his rocket could go?

5. Why do people think that he is trying to fool them?

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Write a paragraph telling what you think about this article now that it is almost 75 years later.

Name _____

Read the clues carefully and use logic to solve the puzzles.
Four frogs are lined up for a race.



Use the information below to write each frog's name under his picture.

1. Fargo is not first.
2. Flakey is between Fuzzy and Fil.
3. Fargo is not wearing a hat.
4. Fil is between Fargo and Flakey.

The race was 10 yards long. The times for finishing the race were :
16 minutes, 18-1/2 minutes, 12 minutes, and 13 minutes.

Use the clues to match each frog with its time.

1. Fargo finished last.
2. Fuzzy and Flakey finished in even-numbered times.
3. Flakey beat Fil.

List the names of the frogs in the order they finished from first to last.

1st _____
2nd _____
3rd _____
4th _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Decide what pattern comes next in the row. Draw six more patterns.

