

Sac County Conservation
KneeHigh Naturalist

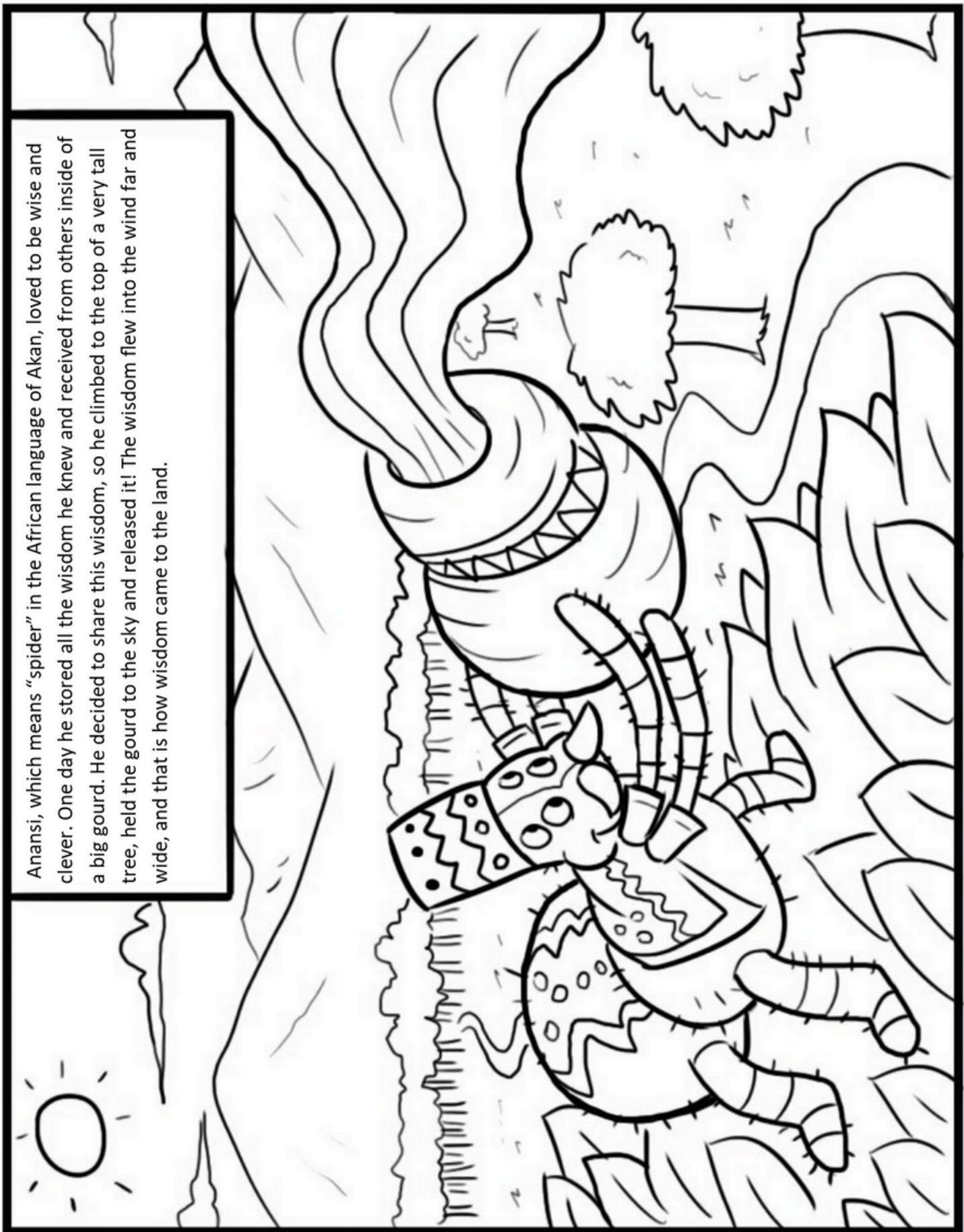
Spiders Kit



Spider Craft

COLOR YOUR SPIDER WHATEVER COLOR YOU'D LIKE. IN YOUR SPIDER YOU WILL FIND TWO HOLES IN THE MIDDLE PULL THE LEGS THROUGH BOTH HOLES SO AN EQUAL AMOUNT STICKS OUT ON BOTH SIDES. THEN BEND THE LEGS TO MAKE THEM LOOK HOWEVER SILLY YOU WANT! ADD ON GOOGLY EYES (THEY ARE STICKERS IF YOU PEEL OFF THE BACK) AND FEEL FREE TO DRAW ON A MOUTH.

Anansi, which means "spider" in the African language of Akan, loved to be wise and clever. One day he stored all the wisdom he knew and received from others inside of a big gourd. He decided to share this wisdom, so he climbed to the top of a very tall tree, held the gourd to the sky and released it! The wisdom flew into the wind far and wide, and that is how wisdom came to the land.



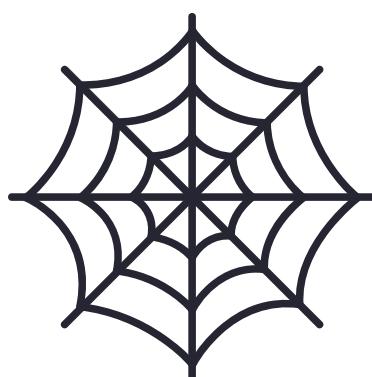
Spider Activities



PERSERVE A SPIDERWEB. ASK A GROWN UP FOR HELP, PLUS A CAN OF HAIRSPRAY AND SPRAY PAINT, AND A SHEET OF CONSTRUCTION PAPER. GO OUT AND FIND A SPIDER WEB, CAREFULLY SPRAY IT WITH SPRAYPAINT. (BE CAREFUL NOT TO SPRAY PLANTS. THEN SPRAY YOUR SHEET OF PAPER WITH HAIRSPRAY, PLACE THE PAPER BEHIND THE WEB AND GENTALLY PULL FORWARD. THE WEB SHOULD STICK TO YOUR PAGE.

Spider Scavenger Hunt

With the help of grown up go out and count how many of each thing you can find. Spiders, Webs, and Insects (Spider Food)



Use the chart in your book to try to identify the spiders or their webs



The Itsy Bitsy Spider

THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER WENT UP THE WATER SPOUT
DOWN CAME THE RAIN AND WASHED THE SPIDER OUT
OUT CAME THE SUN AND DRIED UP ALL THE RAIN
THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER WENT UP THE SPOUT AGAIN.

Suggested Reading

I'm Trying to Love Spiders
Bethany Barton

The Very Busy Spider
Eric Carle

Are You A Spider
Julie Allen and Tudor Humphries

Types of Spider Webs

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach



Figure 8. Cobweb spider



Figure 9. American house spider



Figure 10. Cellar spider

WEB-BUILDING SPIDERS

survive and reproduce well indoors and outdoors, depending on species.

Cobweb spiders are members of a large group also called the comb-footed spiders and are very common both outdoors and indoors. They are small to medium-sized spiders (about $\frac{1}{8}$ - to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch long) and have a rounded, globular abdomen, small cephalothorax, and brownish or grayish color (Figure 8). They are sedentary and construct the familiar, irregular, tangled webs for which the group is named. Webs are built in undisturbed, out-of-the-way places such as wood and stone piles and in quiet areas of buildings, such as basements. A common type of comb-footed spider found indoors is the American house spider, also called the common house spider (Figure 9). It is grayish to brownish with chevron-like markings on its abdomen and a body length of over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. It builds a loose tangle of webs ("cob webs") in secluded and undisturbed areas of the house such as basements and crawl spaces.

Cellar spiders, including the long-bodied cellar spiders, are common in dark secluded places such as crawlspaces, basements, and cellars (as the name implies). Like the cobweb spiders, the cellar spiders build a loose, irregular web in corners near the ceiling or floor. Cellar spiders are $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, pale gray to light tan in color and have long delicate legs (resembling the daddy-longlegs). (Figure 10)

Orb weaver spiders are common spiders outdoors in gardens, fields, and landscapes. They are rarely found indoors. The orb weaver spiders make the familiar "typical" spider web of concentric circles and radiating lines. They range in size from small to large ($\frac{1}{8}$ - to 1-inch long) and are found in a variety of colors, some being brightly colored. Orb spiders have large, swollen-looking abdomens, including some that are oddly shaped. Despite their large size and bright coloration, orb weaver spiders are not dangerous.

Common orb weaver spiders include the black and yellow argiope (are-JI-o-pee) spider, the barn spider, and the marbled orb weaver spider. The **black and yellow argiope** (Figure 11), also known as the garden spider, is familiar to many. It is large (up to 1-inch long) and brightly colored black and yellow. The **Barn spider** (Figure 12) is large ($\frac{1}{4}$ -inch long) and yellow and brown in color. The barn spider is the model for Charlotte in E.B. White's famous book, *Charlotte's Web*. The **marbled orb weaver spider** (Figure 13) is a striking spider that attracts attention because of its typical bright orange color, though specimens vary from orange to beige to pale yellow and white.



Figure 11. Black and yellow argiope



Figure 12. Barn spider



Figure 13. Marbled orb weaver spider

SPIDERS OF IOWA

Fishing Spiders
Can Walk On
Water



All Spiders
have Fangs



The worlds smallest
spider is .37 mm which
is smaller then this dot

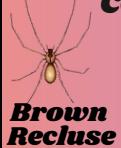
THE WORLDS BIGGEST
CAN BE AS BIG AS THIS
PAPER



Not all spiders
make webs. There
are 9 types of
spiders that make
webs.



Body
ABDOMEN



Encounters are rare,
if you see one just
leave them be.



*Out of all the species of
spiders in Iowa There are
only two you need to be
concerned about.*

Spiders have
two body parts

CEPHALOTHORAX
Head

Exoskeleton

Their Bones are on the outside
of their bodies

Anachnid

8 Jointed Legs

Jointed means they can bend

Spiders can't chew, so
they use venom to
turn their food liquid.
Like a bug smoothie.



Ectotherm

They get their
heat from the sun

Most spiders live 1-2
years. Some can live
up to 25 years!



You are
more likely to
get struck by
lightening
then die
from a spider
bite.

40,000+

Species of spiders

SPIDERS CAN
EAT UP TO 75
POUNDS OF
INSECTS A
YEAR!!



Most Spiders
have 8 eyes