# Lucas The Spider!

## Intro

### Spiders!

Spiders are very important for controlling insect populations and also important food source to birds. They are important predators that feed on many insects such as mosquitoes, ticks, and common garden/agricultural pests such as aphids, caterpillars, etc. They are also eaten by many different animals and insects such as birds, turtles, frogs, wasps, skinks, etc.

- Spiders are arachnids (**can y'all say arachnids with me?**) which is a class of joint-legged invertebrate animals. Among this group are scorpions and ticks.
- **How many legs does a spider have?** Spiders have 8 legs while insects have 6.
- Spiders are found on every continent in the world, except Antarctica.
- There are around 40,000 different species of spiders.

### Webs!

- Most spiders make silk that they use to create spider webs. Silk can also be used to wrap prey and make egg sacks.

### Jumping Spiders!

- Jumping spiders do not make webs because they do not need them to hunt. The only time they use silk is to make an egg sack or to make a closely woven nest to hide in, typically under bark, stones, or leaves.
- **Since they do not use webs to hunt, how do you think they catch their prey?** They use their legs and JUMP! When they find their target jumping spiders will extend their legs and launch after their meal, typically a small insect. They can jump up to 50 times their body length.
- **How many eyes do y'all have?** Jumping spiders have 8 eyes, and are known to have the sharpest vision of all spiders.
- They have sensory hairs along their bodies that take in vibrations from sound waves allowing them to have great hearing.
- Most adults are 5-10 mm in size.

- NOW THAT WE'VE LEARNED A LITTLE ABOUT THESE FASCINATING SPIDERS LETS JUMP OVER TO THE AMPILTHEATER TO READ OUR BOOK!

## Read Book

"Lucas the Spider"

## Craft

Plate spider (materials)

- Plates
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaners
- String
- Hole punch
- Staplers
- Glue
- Crayons

https://www.treehugger.com/jumping-spider-facts-4864103

https://www.terminix.com/blog/bug-facts/jumping-spider-fun-facts/