

# Station Overview & LP Web Design



## Station Synopsis:

At this station families will work together to design and build a spider web out of provided materials - bits of string, ribbon, and yarn.

## Learning Objectives:

- families will ask new and authentic questions about spiders and their silk.
- families will understand that spiders are diverse and use their silk for different purposes.
- families will use their imaginations to work together on a design challenge inspired by spiders and their silk.

## Station Overview:

Introduction: 5 minutes

Build Time: 30 minutes

Wrap Up: 5 minutes

## Materials:

- Construction supplies: Lots of different types of string, yarn, twine, fishing line, ribbons, zip ties, strips of paper.
- Fastening supplies: glue sticks, Elmer's glue, tape, paper clips.
- Inspiration Materials: Books about spider silk, pictures of webs, MSU Extension office "Spiders of MT" Guide, microscope with black widow silk.
- Picture books about spiders for the younger kids.
- Post-it notes
- Scratch paper and pencils
- Tables, one for the facilitator and one per family, to build the web on.
- "Station Guide" laminated or in stands, one per family table.

## Station Layout:

The "Facilitator's Table" should be set up in the middle of a cluster of tables, one for each family. The Facilitator's table should include all materials: construction supplies (yarns, strings etc., fastening supplies, scratch paper and pencils), Inspiration Materials (books, web flip cards, microscope etc.), and post it notes. Make sure the construction supplies are spread out enough so that multiple families can choose from them without feeling crowded. Add a second table if needed.

Each "Family Table" should have only the Station Guide on it and enough chairs for each family member.



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## Facilitator's Role:

### *Introduction:*

- Welcome everyone to the station, share how excited you are that they decided to join you to explore the world of spider silk.
- Reiterate that at this station we're exploring the question **"How do spiders make their silk and why do they make webs?"**
- Give a brief overview of the station activity. The challenge is to design and build a web out of the provided materials. Webs will be made by "weaving" materials between the legs of their team's table to make a large web of their own design.
- Show off all of the different construction materials that are available. Remind families that spiders make webs in all kinds of shapes, in all kinds of places, out of different types of silk. This gives families a lot of freedom to be creative when planning out their webs.
- Encourage families to start by deciding on a goal for their web. Will it catch food? Will it help their spider hide from predators? Families can use the scratch paper to plan out their webs in advance.
- Let families know that if they need inspiration, they can check out all of the resources on the Facilitator's Table. Also let adults know that there are resources for younger kids as well, pictures books and coloring sheets about spiders if younger kids get restless or need a break from building.

### *During the Program:*

Your role is to support family teams while they build - without doing the project for them. Remember, there is no one right design or finished project, each web will be unique. If families are struggling with deciding what type of web to build, encourage them to check out the inspiration materials and talk through the decision-making process with them. The goal is to be supportive without telling them what to do.

The overall goal for "Curious Creatures" is to foster curiosity and connection in families. Be patient and receptive to any and all questions that come your way. **If there's a particularly good question, one they're very excited about, encourage them to write it down and add it to the corkboard from earlier in the program.**

### *Wrapping Up:*

As time winds on give family teams a warnings about how much time they have left. Once time is up encourage families to walk around and check out the different webs made by the different families. Encourage families to take pictures, ask if it's alright to take pictures of their designs to share on social media.