

Pacific Folding Door Spider Video

Educator Resource Sheet



Caption: A Pacific folding door spider. Notice its cephalothorax (in the centre), abdomen, eight eyes and eight legs.
Photo credit: Darren Copley

Background

Pacific folding door spiders (*Antrodiaetus pacificus*) are large spiders closely related to tarantulas. They are not as large as tarantulas but bigger than most spiders in western British Columbia, ranging in size from 2.5 to 5 centimetres. During the day, they are often found hiding underground in lawns and forest beds. Watch the video to learn about how this unique spider forages at night using its folding door. Invite students to think about its adaptations and where they might look for a Pacific folding door spider in their backyard!

Tip: Click on the CC button on the bottom right corner of the video to turn the closed captions on.

BC Curriculum Connections

Kindergarten	Grade 1
<p>Big idea: Plants and animals have observable features</p> <p>Content: Basic needs of plants and animals; Adaptations of local plants and animals; Local First People’s uses of plants and animals</p> <p>Competencies: Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world; Discuss observations</p>	<p>Big idea: Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment</p> <p>Content: Names of local plants and animals; Structural features of living things in the local environment; Behavioural adaptations of animals in the local environment; Local First Peoples’ knowledge of the local landscape, plants and animals</p> <p>Competencies: Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world; Make and record observations; Identify simple patterns and connections</p>

Connections with First Peoples

- One of the [First Peoples Principles of Learning](#) is that learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential and relational (focused on connectedness, reciprocal relationships and a sense of place).
- Learn how to say “spider” in the Indigenous language in your area. Here is an [example](#) from the SENĆOTEN dictionary. Visit the [First Peoples’ map](#) or [FirstVoices](#) to learn more about First Nations languages within BC.
- Learn more about how to integrate BC First Peoples’ content through the Ministry of Education’s [Shared Learnings](#) or the First Nations Education Steering Committee’s [learning resources](#).

Vocabulary Words

Here are some words that you can teach your students before showing the video.

Abdomen: part of the body that contains the heart, intestines and lungs	Folding door: a door that folds onto itself
Beetle: a winged insect with a hard cover, like ladybugs and fireflies	Half a metre: 50 centimetres, or about half the size of a guitar or a baseball bat
Burrow: to dig a hole in the ground	Jaw: bones that hold the teeth
Cephalothorax: part of the body that contains the brain, stomach and venom gland	Lawn: a grassy area
Coast: land by the ocean	Related to: to have a connection to
Entrance: an opening where one enters through	Wander: to walk around without a plan

Teaching Tips!

- Make sure to discuss **adaptation** with your class before showing the video. An adaptation is something a plant or animal has or does that helps them to survive. Start with animals that students are more familiar with. For example, you might discuss how polar bears are adapted to their environment (they have white fur to blend into the snow and ice in the Arctic). Then, explain how Pacific folding door spiders build burrows to stay safe and use a folding door to trap prey.
- Visually demonstrate how a folding door works. Get a piece of construction paper and fold it in half. Use this to show how the Pacific folding door spider opens its entrance to catch prey (see the example in the video).
- The question that kids most want to know: Are they poisonous? Despite their large, hairy appearance, folding door spiders are mostly harmless. Like most spiders, they can bite when provoked. However, their small venom glands make the bite only mildly painful.
- Spiders are *not* insects! Spiders have two body parts and eight legs, whereas insects have three body parts and six legs. Spiders are a part of the class Arachnida (includes scorpions, ticks and mites), whereas insects belong to the class Insecta (includes beetles, butterflies, beetles, bees and more).

Additional resources

- Find more images, audio clips and videos of spiders from the Royal BC Museum's [Not So Scary Learning Portal pathway](#).
- Check out these [spider-related educational resources](#) from Strong Nations, a bookstore, gift shop and publisher in Nanaimo, BC.
- Watch this [video](#) of a Pacific folding door spider feeding on an insect.
- Read *Victoria Times Colonist*'s [article](#) on a Pacific folder door spider found in Langford on Vancouver Island.
- Watch BBC Earth's [video](#) on trapdoor spiders. Learn about how trapdoor spiders are different from folding door spiders.
- Read Live Science's [article](#) on why spiders have so many eyes.
- Follow this [video](#) to make a dancing spider with using craft materials.