

Trend Task: Animal Adaptation — Spider

Approach:	Station	Year:	4 & 8
Focus:	Animal adaptation		
Resources:	Picture in recording book		

Questions / instructions:

Look carefully at the picture.

Write about the parts of the spider that help it to survive.

An example has been done for you.

Spider

	% responses 2003 ('99)	
	year 4	year 8
legs for moving	72 (74)	82 (78)
disposable leg parts for escape	0 (0)	1 (3)
fur/hairs on legs/body to sense movement	3 (3)	9 (13)
special leg tips with secretions to walk on web/water	7 (8)	7 (11)
spinneret (<i>source of web material</i>)	25 (31)	33 (42)
mouth to eat	14 (11)	13 (20)
fang to poison/paralyse prey	20 (28)	36 (48)
eyes (<i>special</i>) to see prey/enemies	41 (50)	49 (48)
colour pattern on body for warning/protection	17 (18)	23 (29)
abdomen to carry eggs/babies	1 (3)	3 (3)
spikes/barbs on legs/body to defend against enemies	3 (13)	5 (9)
Total Score:	5	6
	2 (4)	7 (7)
	4 (14)	18 (29)
	3 (25)	29 (34)
	2 (31)	29 (21)
	1 (19)	11 (8)
	0 (14)	6 (1)

Commentary:

This task shows a quite modest advantage for year 8 students over year 4 students, and limited evidence of a decline in performance for both year 4 and year 8 between 1999 and 2003. It was one of the least popular tasks in the student evaluations.