Trend Task: Animal Adaptation — Spider

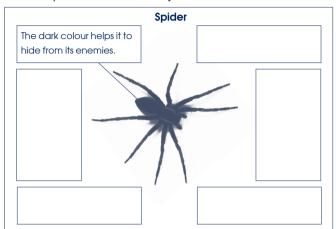
4 & 8

Approach: Focus: Resources:

Station Animal adaptation 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.



	% 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 (source of web material)	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	2 (4)	6 (7)
4	9 (14)	18 (29)
3	25 (29)	30 (34)
2	31 (28)	29 (21)
1	19 (18)	11 (8)
0	14 (7)	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.