

**Animal
Diaries**
Life Cycles

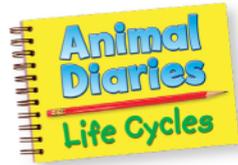


A Spider's Life



by Ellen Lawrence

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Ellen Lawrence

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Alix Wood

Editor: Mark J. Sachner

Photo Researcher: Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lawrence, Ellen, 1967–

A spider's life / by Ellen Lawrence.

p. cm. — (Animal diaries: Life cycles)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-414-5 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-414-9 (library binding)

I. Spiders—Life cycles—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL458.4.L39 2012

595.4'4—dc23

2011044055

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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Name: Ella

Date: May 27

A Dancing Spider!

Today, I used my magnifying glass to watch a male and a female jumping spider on a leaf.

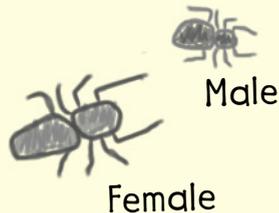
The male spider waved his legs in the air.

He scampered from side to side in front of the female.

It looked like he was dancing!

Mom said the male spider was showing off so the female would **mate** with him.

I've drawn some life-size jumping spiders. Females are bigger than males!



Ella

A close-up photograph of a jumping spider on a green leaf. The spider has a dark, hairy body and bright green chelicerae. A magnifying glass is positioned over the spider's head. Labels with blue arrows point to various parts of the spider: 'exoskeleton' points to the top of the cephalothorax, 'eyes' points to the large anterior eyes, 'leg' points to one of the eight legs, and 'jumping spider' points to the spider's body. A text box in the upper right, framed like a magnifying glass, explains the exoskeleton. A text box in the lower right provides a safety tip. A small potted plant with the number 5 is in the bottom right corner.

exoskeleton

eyes

Spiders have eight legs and eight eyes. They don't have bones inside their bodies. Instead, they have a hard covering called an **exoskeleton**.

leg

jumping spider

Use a magnifying glass to get a close-up look at spiders in your backyard or in a park. Don't touch or disturb the little animals you spot.

Date: June 1

Spider Eggs

It's been five days since the spiders mated.

Today, the female spider laid her eggs.

She made a **silk** covering, called an egg sac, to keep them safe.

The spider used silk from inside her body to make the sac.

Then she made a silk nest in the corner of our porch.

Inside the nest, the spider is guarding her egg sac.



egg sac



nest

A female jumping spider can lay up to 150 eggs at one time.

female jumping spider

Why do you think a female jumping spider guards her eggs?



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Goldish, Meish. *Jumping Spiders (No Backbone!).* New York: Bearport (2009).

Marsh, Laura. *Spiders.* Washington, D.C.: National Geographic (2011).

Robbins, Lynette. *Jumping Spiders (Jump!).* New York: PowerKids Press (2012).

Learn More Online

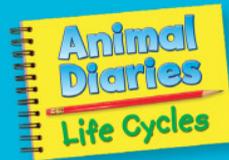
To learn more about jumping spiders, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/AnimalDiaries

About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about animals. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.



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A Spider's Life

Ella was using her magnifying glass one day when she spotted two jumping spiders on a leaf. One was waving its legs in the air. Ella's mom said it was a male showing off to get the other spider, a female, to mate with him. Five days after they mated, the female laid eggs. Ella watched the mother spider and her spiderlings for more than five months. Read what she wrote about them in her diary. It's fascinating!

A Butterfly's Life A Frog's Life A Kangaroo's Life

A Snake's Life A Spider's Life



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