WEBS in the MORNING DEW



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The U.S. Fish & Wildlife provides this image of a spider web covered with morning dew. It is online via USFW.

While shimmering webs are beautiful for humans to see, the dew is indispensable for the web's creator. Experts believe that a spider can replace at least ten percent of the water it needs just by drinking the droplets which have settled on its web.

The best way to view a spider's artistry is before the sun dries the dew:

- How can a spider create such a perfectly symmetrical piece of work?
- Without the dew, we could not see the web so clearly.
- Near a cow pasture, a spider was very busy during the night.
- Water droplets look like jewels on a large web.
- How long does it take to weave a web of intricate beauty?
- Can such a large web last long?
- When a web hangs from a tree, the dew makes it seem magical.

With a web in place, the spider is now ready to catch its food. What—and how—does it eat?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WEBS-in-the-MORNING-DEW-Charlotte-s-Web

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WEBS-in-the-MORNING-DEW-Charlotte-s-Web

Questions 2 Ponder

How Does Nature Help Us to See Things in a Different Light?

Spider webs—especially when they have large, scary spiders at the center and dead bugs trapped throughout—tend to “freak us out.” But such a web, spun by that nasty-looking spider, is actually a work of beauty.

Beyond its ability to help spiders catch prey, thereby providing the means to live, webs also provide spiders with water. When the morning dew settles on a spider's web, that dew provides the spider with at least ten percent of the water it needs.

Spider webs are particularly beautiful when the morning dew makes them shimmer. Before the sun helps the dew to dry, we can see the beautiful symmetry of the web (and the artistry of the spider).

We could say that nature helps us to see things—like a spider's web—in a totally different way. Have you ever thought that something was scary or gross, but nature has helped you to see it in a different light? Describe what you first thought was gross, or scary, and then describe how nature helped you to change your mind.

A spider's web that is not covered with dew looks quite different from a web that is saturated with moisture. The same is true if we see the web at night instead of in the morning. It's still the same web, though, whether we see it at night or in the daytime (and whether it's wet or dry). Why do we respond to the same things, in different ways, depending on the light in which those items are cast?

Media Stream



The Perfect Web
Image online, courtesy University of Saskatchewan Archives. Hans Dommasch (MG 172 - main acc.) F. Slides 1. Anglin Lake - Sheet 1 (19).

PD
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Spider's Masterpiece Coated with Dew
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Prey in the Beautiful Web of a Busy Spider
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Water Droplets on a Spider's Web
Image online, courtesy Trinity International University.
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Detailed Web in the Morning Dew

Image online, courtesy Maricopa Community Colleges.
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Huge Spider Web Shines in the Mist

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Spider's Web Looks Like Royal Jewelry

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