

Animal  
Diaries  
Life Cycles



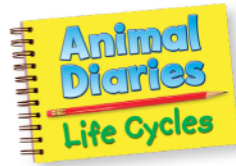
# A Spider's Life



by Ellen Lawrence

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# A Spider's Life

by  
**Ellen Lawrence**

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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.

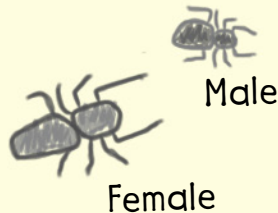
The male spider waved his legs in the air.

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





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



A close-up photograph of a black, hairy female jumping spider on a vibrant green leaf. The spider is positioned in the center, facing slightly towards the left. Above the spider, a delicate, white web is spun, and at the top of this web is a small, white, oval-shaped egg nest. A blue arrow points from the word 'nest' to the egg nest. Another blue arrow points from the text 'female jumping spider' to the spider's body. The entire scene is framed by a thick blue border.

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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## Read More

**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](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/AnimalDiaries)

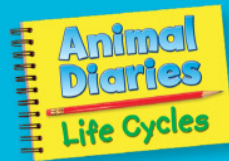
## About the Author

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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