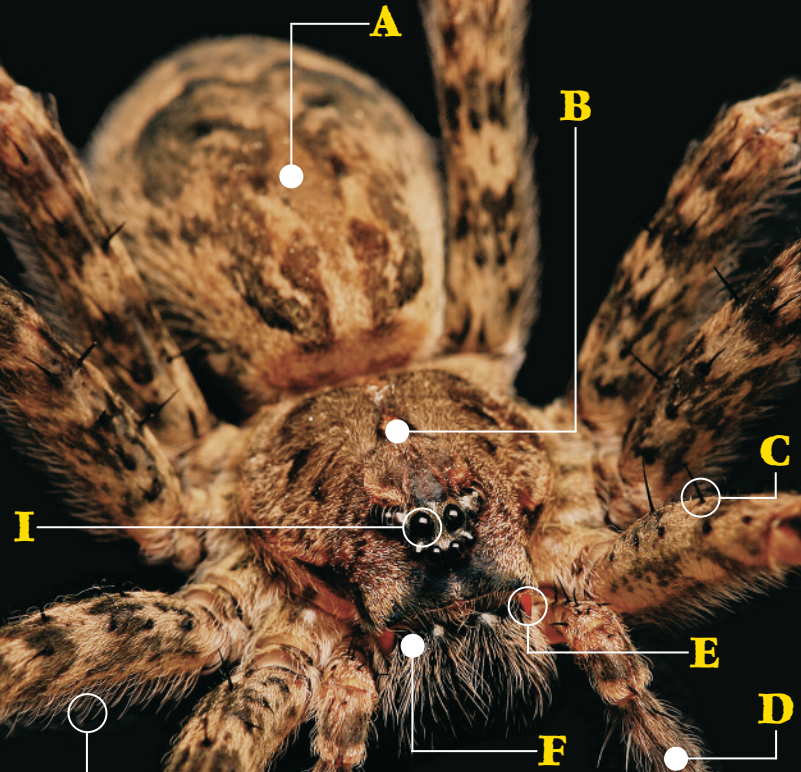


Spiders

A rachnophobia, the fear of spiders, is one of the most common human fears today, but it wasn't always so. Historically, spiders were considered a sign of good luck. Seen on an article of clothing, a spider would mean the wearer would get new apparel. A spider seen on a bride, or on anything she was holding, also signaled good luck.

The benefits of spiders—preying on unwanted insect pests and production of optical equipment, medical drugs and textiles—far outweigh the problems they cause.



- prosoma
- abdomen
- leg
- eye
- chelicerae
- fang
- palp
- macrosetae
- setae
- trichobothria

Can you identify the parts of a spider based on these clues?

Spiders have two main body parts—a **prosoma** (or cephalothorax) and an **abdomen**—and eight **legs**.

The majority of spiders have eight **eyes**, but some species only have six, four, two—or none.

A spider's jaws are called **chelicerae**. **Fangs**, actually two long teeth, are used for feeding and defense. Human's jaws are hinged at one point, but a spider's jaws are hinged at two points, increasing the angle of their bite.

Next to the chelicerae are two **palps**, smaller appendages used for sensory and reproductive purposes.

Look closely at the photo and discover the variety of hairs on this wolf spider.

The thickest spines, **macrosetae**, are inserted in a socket and function as feelers and to help the animal grasp prey.

The finer spines are **setae** and serve the same function as our hairs—col-

oration, insulation and feeling.

The very fine, extremely sensitive hairs sticking straight up from a spider's legs are **trichobothria** and allow spiders to detect airborne vibrations—the closest thing a spider has to hearing.

Submit your answers at "Outdoor Illinois magazine" on www.facebook.com by 5 p.m. Oct. 18, 2009 for a chance to win a free 1-year subscription/renewal to *Outdoor Illinois*. Answers will be posted on Facebook and at www.dnr.state.il.us/OI on Oct. 19.

Illinois Spiders poster

Learn about 25 spider species found in Illinois with a two-sided, 24-inch x 36-inch poster produced by the Department of Natural Resources. To order a copy, visit www.dnr.state.il.us/teachkids.



Illinois Spiders

The wonderful world of spiders will be explored in an ENTICE workshop for educators of grades four through six from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Oct. 10, 2009 at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia. (Educators of other grade levels are welcome and may adapt activities to other grades.) Learn about the spiders found in Illinois, their habits and habitats. Go on a hike to find spiders in the wild. Take part in hands-on activities that can be instantly implemented into your classes. Numerous supplemental materials will be provided. Continuing Professional Development Units are available. Sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources, this workshop is part of the ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program. To register visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>.