

Name _____

Day 1

A tarantula is a big, hairy spider. You might see one in a pet shop that carries unusual pets. In the United States, tarantulas live in the West where it is hot and dry. During the day, tarantulas sleep in holes and other dark places.

1. What word above has a **t** that is pronounced like **ch**? _____
2. Give antonyms for **big, hairy**. _____
3. If you visit a pet shop that carries unusual pets, you might see
A. a cat. B. a canary. C. a tarantula.
4. What might happen if you stuck your hand in a dark hole in Arizona? _____

Day 2

Tarantulas catch their food mostly by jumping on it and biting it. Smaller tarantulas eat insects. Larger ones eat mice and lizards. A tarantula's poison can kill the animals it hunts, but its poison cannot kill a human.

1. Circle the word that has an ending sound like the second **t** in **tarantula**.
2. What is another word for "the animals it hunts"?
A. Prey B. Toast C. Pray
3. What information in this paragraph might make you feel better about meeting a tarantula? _____
4. What kills the animals when a tarantula hunts? _____

Day 3

If you are bitten, you soon know that a tarantula bite hurts only about as much as a bee sting. Its bite helps the spider protect itself. The shy tarantula bites humans only if it feels threatened and cannot get away.

1. Is the **i** in **bite** pronounced the same as the **i** in **bitten**? _____
2. What is another word that means the same as **shy**? _____
3. What might happen to someone who has been bitten by a tarantula? _____

4. Poking or touching a tarantula might make it
A. run away. B. bite you. C. run until it catches you.

Day 4

A tarantula has another way to protect itself. It can rub its hind legs together, which causes its stiff leg hairs to fly up in the air. Each tiny hair can cause a hurtful skin or eye wound.

1. Circle all of the words that have a short **i** sound.
2. Which meaning of **wound** is correct here: **wrapped around** or **injury**? _____
3. What details does the writer use to describe tarantula hairs? _____
4. If you looked closely at a tarantula rubbing its hind legs together, what might happen? _____

Venus Flytrap

Kayla got a **Venus flytrap** for her birthday. She put it with her other plants on her windowsill. She watered all of her plants each day.

After a week, all of her plants looked fine except for the Venus flytrap. She decided that she needed more information on this plant, so she went to the library and found a book about the Venus flytrap.

She was surprised to find out that this plant was **carnivorous**, or meat eating. No wonder it was not doing well! The book said that the Venus flytrap is a popular house plant. Each set of leaves stays open until an insect or piece of meat lands on the inside of the leaves. The two leaves close quickly, trapping the bait inside. After a leaf digests the meat, it dies. A new leaf grows to take the place of the dead leaf.

Now, Kayla knew how to take care of her Venus flytrap.

1. What clues can you get from the compound word in the name of the **Venus flytrap** about what it might eat? _____

2. What does the word **carnivorous** mean? _____

3. Why did Kayla need to go to the library? _____

4. Compare this passage to a report on Venus flytraps. _____

