



**WEEK 4:**  
**ANIMAL  
HOMES**

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

From the coldest tundra to the hottest desert, animals make their homes in very different places. Whether underwater, underground, high on a mountain or deep in a forest, animals find or make spaces to provide shelter and safety. Some animals, like moles and prairie dogs, dig burrows or tunnels to make their homes underground. Birds and beavers carefully build their homes out of materials they collect in their environment. Other animals, like some spiders and bees, can make their homes using materials they produce from their bodies. Many large animals, like bison and whales, are so big that they don't need to build special homes – their home is wherever they go! No matter where they live, all animals have some sort of place that they can call home.

### DAY 4:

### STICKY WEBS

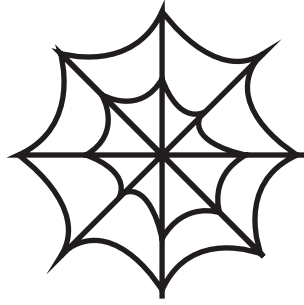
Spiders build webs as places to live, catch food and avoid predators. Some spiders will even eat their own webs to recycle the energy used to make the silk. Each species of spider has its own pattern of making and using their web to help them survive. An orb web is one pattern of web that you may have seen outside or used on holiday decorations. Orb-weaving spiders create webs in the shape of a wheel or spiral, suspended in the air anchored to a tree or other structure to catch food, like flying insects. They usually are rebuilt every day and can catch dozens of insects in a single day. Let's make a sticky orb web!

#### Before you start, you should have:

- Elmer's white glue
- Plastic sheet protector, large plastic baggie, sheet of plastic wrap or other flat plastic surface.
- Optional: glitter

## Get started:

1) Look at the example of the orb web or do an image search for "orb web."



- 2) Lay the plastic sheet on a flat surface.
- 3) Squeeze a drop of glue to mark the center of the web.
- 4) Using the glue, make at least eight straight lines starting at the center and ending at least an inch away from the edge of the plastic sheet. Your web can be as large or small as you choose.
- 5) Following the example, start near the center and use the glue to connect the straight lines with shorter lines.
- 6) Optional: When you have finished making the web with glue, cover the wet glue with glitter.
- 7) Let the web dry on the plastic sheet overnight or for at least 20 hours.
- 8) Gently peel the web from the plastic sheet and turn it over. Allow the web to continue to dry until the center is dry.
- 9) Stick your finished web to a window or hang it with a piece of string.

## Keep exploring!

Look up different types of webs and the spiders that make them. Create a sheet web, funnel web, tangle web or another type of orb web.

## What did you discover?

Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags **#samnoblehome** and **#summerexplorers** to share!

## More information on spider webs:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/ask-smithsonian-how-do-spiders-make-webs-180957426/>



<https://baynature.org/article/spiders/>



Sam Noble Home



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