

## Name of Exhibit: Tarantulas

Description: The HSC tarantulas, similarly to snakes, are often maligned among “Critters”. We only do very limited contact with them, currently. Tarantulas will go through many different defensive postures when feeling threatened before biting, so they are useful when discussing how many animals really don’t want to attack or fight a human. It is valuable to about the differences between arachnids and the other arthropods.

For all ages.

### MN SCIENCE Grad Stand/Strand/Sub-strand: Number####:

0L 1.2.1.2, 0L 2.1.1.1, 0L 2.1.1.3, 0L 3.1.1.1  
1L 1.1.1.1, 1L 3.1.1.1, 1L 3.2.2.2, 1E 4.1.1.1, 1L 4.2.1.2  
2L 4.1.1.1  
3L 3.1.1.2, 3L 3.2.1.1, 3L 4.1.1.1, 3L 4.2.1.1  
4L 4.1.1.1, 4L 4.2.1.2  
5L 4.1.2.1  
7L 2.1.1.1, 7L 2.2.1.1, 7L 3.2.1.1, 7L 3.2.1.4, 7L 4.1.1.2, 7L 4.1.2.1

**Grade Level(s):** Kindergarten through 7th Grades

**Content Area(s):** Life Science, Earth Science

### Learning Target(s):

1. I can ask questions from observations about the similarities and differences found in tarantulas and other living things.
2. I can explain how patterns in the behavior of tarantulas and their offspring help offspring survive.
3. I can explain, using evidence, how variations in characteristics among tarantulas (same species) may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.
4. I can apply my knowledge about specific HSC tarantulas to explain the strategies a variety of animals use to survive.
5. I can obtain information from resources to determine that tarantulas have traits inherited from parents and that variations of these traits exist in a group of similar organisms.

### Essential Question(s):

1. What differences can you see between tarantulas and other animals? What similarities can you see between two tarantulas and other animals?
2. What human invention mimics tarantulas?
3. What do tarantulas do to protect themselves from enemies?
4. How do variations in characteristics among tarantulas (same species) provide advantages?
5. What are strategies tarantulas use to survive? Why are the strategies successful? Why aren't some strategies successful?
6. What variations are the result of inherited traits from parents of tarantulas?

**Key Vocabulary in Demo:** Abdomen, Antennae, Biome, Camouflage, Habitat, Head, Herbivore, Insects, Life Cycle, Nocturnal, Predator, Prey, Thorax, Vertebrates vs Invertebrates, Warm-Blooded vs Cold-Blooded

**Prerequisite Terms:** Adaptation, Advantage, Behavior, Characteristics, Differences, Function, Lineage, Mimic, Model, Observation, Patterns, Protect, Range, Relationship, Similarities, Strategies, Structure, Traits, Variation