

Who Will Eat the Food?

Scientific Background

Spiders catch prey, like flies or moths, by trapping these organisms in their webs. When the prey struggles, the web vibrates, sending a signal to the spider. The spider rushes to the prey. Using its fangs, the spider injects poison into the prey. The prey is then wrapped in silk for a later time, when the spider will suck out digested juices from the prey's body.

Cockroaches are omnivores. They eat many different types of food, including scraps of human food that may be found in our homes. They use their jaws to chew the food pieces.

Vocabulary

- arachnid
- fangs
- inorganic
- omnivore
- poison
- silk
- digest
- inject
- jaws
- organic
- prey
- vibrate

*Vocabulary definitions can be found in the **Backyard Bugs** Glossary.*

Thinking Question

How are a spider's diet and a cockroach's diet the same? How are their diets different?

Exploratory and Extension Activities

Additional Exploratory and Extension activities are available in the *Backyard Bugs Teacher's Guide*.

Bug Poetry

Read aloud *insectlopedia* by Douglas Florian (Harcourt Children's Books, 1998, ISBN: 0152013067). Discuss each poem along with its illustration. Create an idea web for each organism. Record the student's observations on a large piece of paper. Read each poem again after the discussion.




Bug Sorting

Use the different bugs from **Backyard Bugs** to investigate sorting and grouping. Create cards with words or pictures representing each of the **Backyard Bugs**. Discuss various ways to sort the bugs. For example, sort by what the bugs eat, such as plants, animals, or decaying material. Another way to sort would be by where the bug lives, such as a pond, a stream, in soil, in trees, or on flowers.

Name: _____

Who Will Eat the Food?

**Cut out the food pictures below.
Paste the pictures in the box for food for the cockroach, food for spider, or not food for either.**

Food for the Cockroach 	Food for the Spider 	Not Food for the Cockroach or the Spider 



Answer Key

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