



SPIDER SENSES

Spiders are amazing hunters that use special senses to survive. Spiders have developed incredible ways to detect movement, vibrations, smells, and changes in their environment. These senses help them catch prey, avoid predators, and find mates.

SENSE OF TOUCH

A spider's body and legs are covered in thousands of tiny sensory hairs. These hairs are so sensitive that they can detect the slightest touch or movement. They help spiders know when an insect has landed on their web or when another animal is approaching. This makes touch one of a spider's most important senses.

FEELING VIBRATIONS



Many spiders rely on vibrations more than eyesight. Web-building spiders can feel vibrations travelling through their silk to work out exactly where an insect has become trapped. They can even tell the difference between a struggling insect, a falling leaf, or another spider based on the pattern of the vibrations. Ground-dwelling spiders can also sense vibrations through the soil.

EYESIGHT

Most spiders have eight eyes, but not all spiders can see equally well. Jumping spiders have some of the best eyesight in the spider world. They can see colours, judge distances, and spot moving prey from several metres away. Other spiders, such as funnel-web spiders, have poorer eyesight and depend more on their other senses.



SMELL AND TASTE

Spiders do not have noses like humans. Instead, they smell and taste using tiny sensory organs on their legs and mouthparts. These organs detect chemicals left behind by insects and other spiders. This helps spiders find food, recognise mates, and avoid danger.

DETECTING AIR MOVEMENT

Spiders also have special hairs that can detect tiny movements in the air. Even the gentle wingbeats of a flying insect or the footsteps of a larger animal can be picked up by these sensitive hairs. This allows spiders to react quickly by hunting, hiding, or escaping.