



Awesome Arachnids

Arachnids are found on every continent except for Antarctica. California is abundant with arachnids—from spiders building webs in gardens to the mites that live on your face. Each of these amazing animals are important to their ecosystem as predators or prey.

Yellow Garden Spider: This species of spider can be found near farms, roadsides, and gardens. They are easy to find because of the webs they spin. Yellow garden spiders spin conspicuous zigzag patterns, known as a *stablementum*, into their webs. The patterns may make the webs more visible to birds so they don't fly through their web.

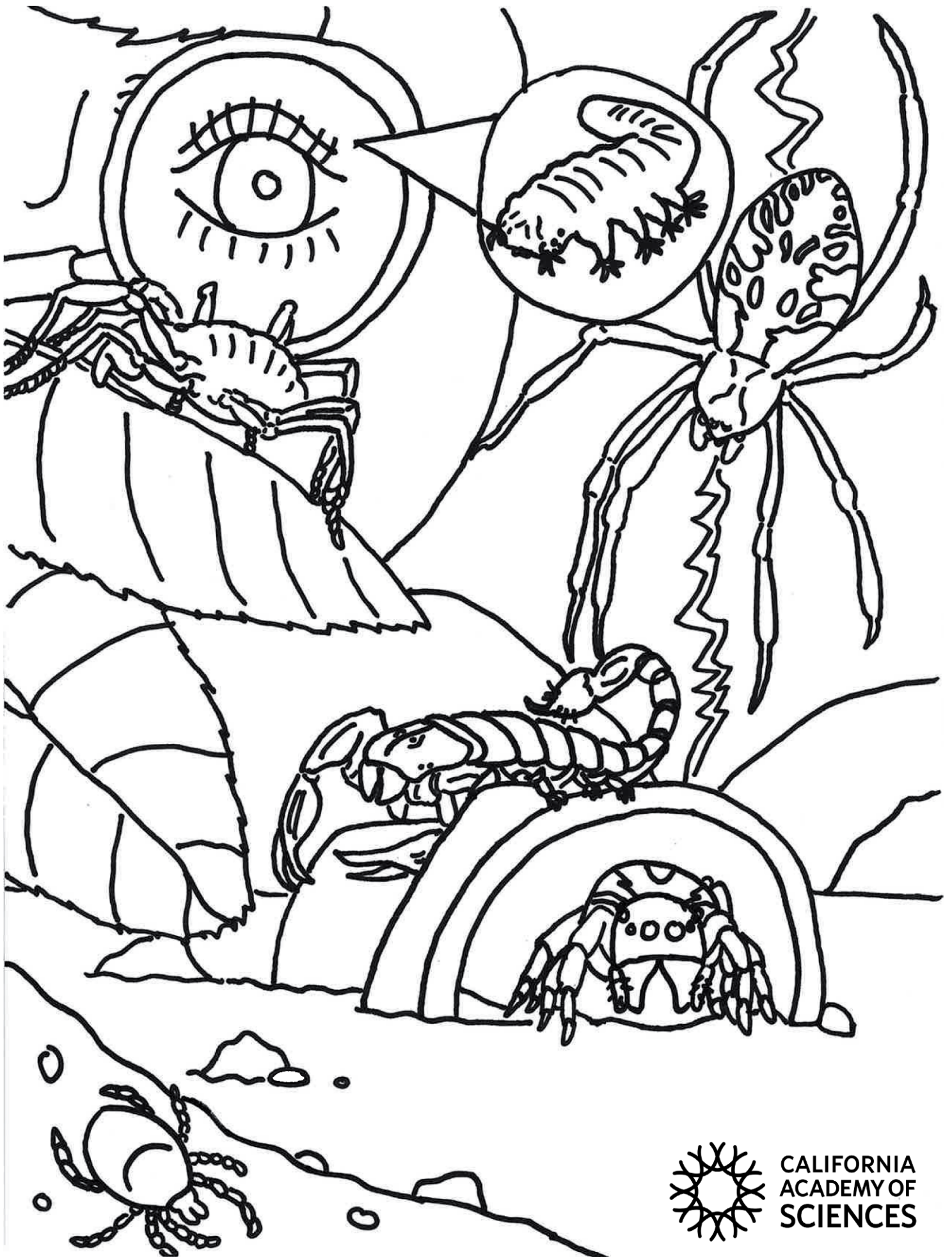
Face Mites: All human bodies have microscopic face mites, or *demodex*, which live in the crevices of hair follicles. Since face mites can be passed between people in close family units, they can tell a lot about a person's ancestry.

Harvestmen: While they may look like spiders at first glance, harvestmen belong to a separate order of arachnids. Their bodies have only one oval-shaped segment instead of two distinct ones, like spiders. Harvestmen also lack venom and fangs.

California Common Scorpion: This scorpion can be found in various habitats throughout California, from dry scrublands to sandy coastlines. Scorpions and other arachnids molt their exoskeletons every so often, like how a reptile sheds its skin. That same exoskeleton glows when exposed to ultraviolet light.

Red-backed Jumping Spider: Found throughout western North America, this spider with its colorful abdomen is one of the largest jumping spiders. Its two large, front-facing eyes on its tall, rectangle-shaped head help these spiders jump and pounce on their prey as they propel themselves forward using their back limbs. A silk thread acts as a safety line to help stabilize their jump.

Pacific Coast Tick: This common tick is found throughout California and prefers dry, shrubby habitats. Ticks are parasitic arachnids that consume blood for food. Host animals for this species of tick include different mammals and birds, including horses, deer, and rodents.



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