

Jumping Spiders



Picture It!

Check out these pictures of jumping spiders and their habitat!



Images by Sarah Rayner

Jumping Spiders

What's the gist?

- **Jumping Spiders Really Jump!** Jumping spiders use their legs to pounce on their prey, which is typically other insects.
- They propel themselves by suddenly changing the blood flow in their body.
- When a jumping spider wants to soar, it contracts special muscles to increase the flow of blood to its legs. This makes the legs fully extend and sends the spider flying — sometimes as far as 50 times the spider's body length.
- **They're Excellent Dancers** .When male jumping spiders want to attract the attention of female jumping spiders, they do a little dance. The dance involves beating their abdomens on the ground and waving their legs in the air. The spiders also tap their feet on the ground so quickly that it can't be seen by the human eye.
- **Jumping Spiders Have Great Vision.** Jumping spiders have four sets of eyes. There are two large eyes right in front, with a smaller eye on either side. Then, on the top of their heads, jumping spiders have two medium-sized eyes and two smaller eyes. And those eight adorable eyeballs aren't just for staring at you.
- Jumping spiders use their vision to hunt for insects to prey on. Additionally, the female jumping spiders use their peepers to judge the dance moves of the males.
- **They Don't Hunt Using Webs.** Unlike many spiders, the jumping spider doesn't trap prey using a web. With its outstanding long-jump hunting abilities, why would it need to?
- **They Mimic Other Insects Hiding in plain sight.** *Myrmarachne melanocephala*, also known as ant-mimicking spiders are a species of jumping spiders who are masters of disguise. These little leapers act like ants to fool predators and prey.

Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>

Jumping Spider facts: maybe the cutest spiders | Animal Fact Files

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9cQ25tSiC0>

The jumping spider is a type of spider that gets its common name from its jumping ability, which it uses to catch prey. While you are not considered prey to them, they will jump on you as well. They have 8 eyes!!! They can easily pounce on a bee and have it for lunch. Watch this video of the Bee vs Jumping Spider:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mew3eK0Wuvk>

Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

To learn more about jumping spiders follow this link: 10 Wild and Crazy Facts About Jumping Spiders:

<https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/jumping-spider-facts>

Jumping spider coloring sheet:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/537195061801686818/>