EGG SACS and BABY SPIDERS



0. EGG SACS and BABY SPIDERS - Story Preface

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In this image we see a house-spider egg sac and its recently hatched spiderlings (who are about three days old and the size of a pepper grain). Although Charlotte isn't a house spider, she also produces an egg sac containing hundreds of eggs. Photo by Richhoyer99; online via Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0

Female spiders lay their eggs inside an egg sac which looks like a cocoon. It depends on the species, but there could be hundreds of eggs. The egg sac, like a spider's web, is made of silken thread.

Some females carry their sacs - in their jaws or on their spinnerets - until the eggs hatch. Other species hide their egg sacs under a rock, attach them to a plant stalk or encase them in the web. When the spiderlings (baby spiders) hatch, they are usually on their own.

Let's examine the egg sacs of a few spiders:

- A mother guards her egg sac.
- This South African spider is carrying an egg sac.
- Another female spider, from South Africa, sits on her nest.
- Some spiderlings ride on their mother's back after they hatch.
- Other spiderlings must stay in a web one week after hatching.

As part of the life cycle of some spider-species, the mother dies after she lays her eggs. When the eggs hatch, the spiderlings will be able to make their way in the world.

Although they do not have wings, the baby spiders will "fly" to different locations by "ballooning" on lines of gossamer silk.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EGG-SACS-and-BABY-SPIDERS-Charlotte-s-Web

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EGG-SACS-and-BABY-SPIDERS-Charlotte-s-Web

Media Stream



Spider - Laying Her Eggs

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Spider Egg Sac

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Protective Spider Guarding her Egg Sac

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Carrying the Egg Sac

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Female Spider Sits on her Cocoon

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Spiderlings Enjoying the Ride

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Spiderlings One Week After Hatching

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Spiderlings "Fly"

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