



A Closer Look at a Spider Web

Find out about the clever architecture of a spider web

Can you match the description to the name?

Bridge thread

This is usually one strong thread of silk and the spider is careful about where it places the anchor point.

Anchor thread

Constructed by very strong spider silk, usually more than one thread, making it as strong as possible to support the weight of the whole web.

Frame thread

These are the 'spokes' that connect the centre of the web to the frame thread. This silk is not sticky as the spider needs to walk on these to prevent being entangled by its own silk.

Radius

This is the only sticky silk on the spider web. It entangles any prey that enters the web.

Hub spiral

These join the corners of the anchor thread and together they form the outside frame of the spider web. This thread isn't as strong as the bridge thread or the anchor thread.

Auxiliary spiral

The central point of the web where the spider sits and waits for prey, it's not sticky.

Capture spiral

This thread is not sticky and is used as a reference for laying down the capture spiral which is sticky.