Life cycle of a spider

Cut out the four pictures and glue them in order, following the arrows from the egg sac in box 1.

Name _____ Date _____

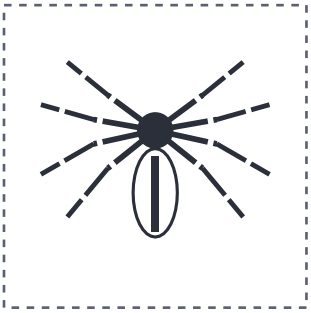
1

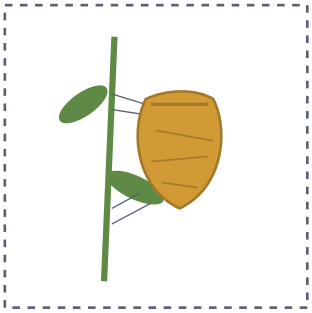
2

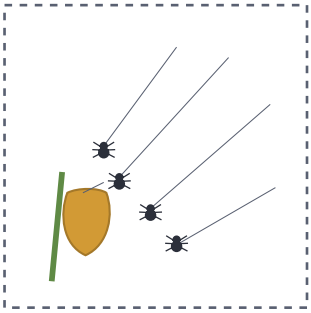
3

4

Cut out



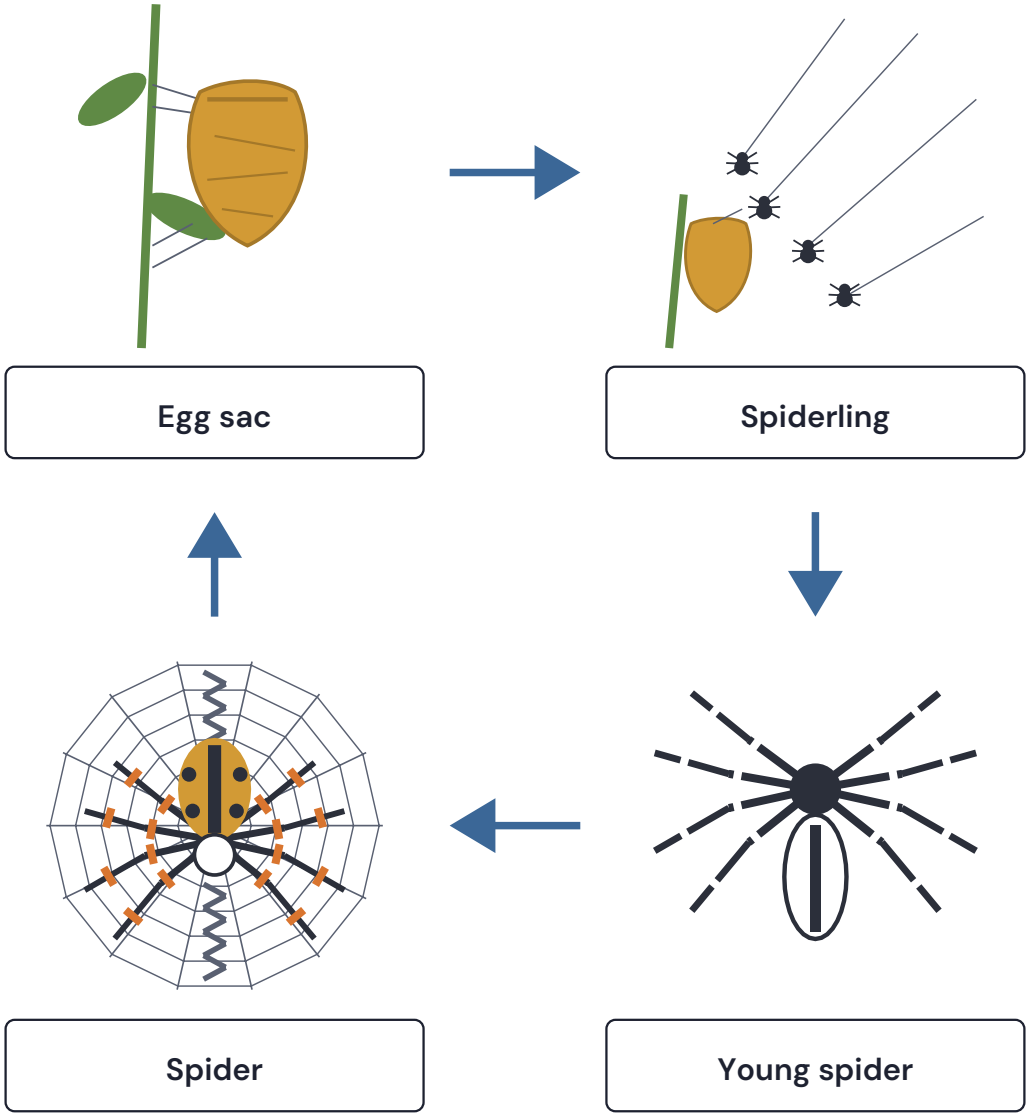




From the Missouri Department of Conservation, “Black-and-Yellow Garden Spider”. The drawings are not to scale.

Life cycle of a spider: answer key

A black-and-yellow garden spider grows in four stages. Its egg sacs wait through the winter, and the young come out in spring.



Egg sac

All summer, the female makes egg sacs, papery and tan and a little smaller than a ping-pong ball, and fixes them to plants near her web. Each can hold over 1,000 eggs.

Spiderling

In spring the young spiders, called spiderlings, come out of the egg sac. Each lets out a strand of silk that catches the breeze and carries it away.

Young spider

The spiderling grows into a young spider, catching insects to eat. A young female is slimmer than a grown one and not yet yellow, with black and white striped legs.

Spider

The grown female spins a round web about 2 feet across, with a zigzag band down the middle, and waits head-down at its center for grasshoppers. She dies in the first frosts of fall; her egg sacs wait through the winter.

From the Missouri Department of Conservation, “Black-and-Yellow Garden Spider”. The drawings are not to scale.