

Did you know that wax is resistant to ink? That means ink does not stick to a surface that has wax on it. This selection describes an experiment you can do to see this fact for yourself. Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

Crayon Resist

by Norma Jean Byrkett



Make a great decoration with crayons and poster board.

Materials:

- scissors
- one piece of white poster board
- one piece of black poster board
- pencil
- crayons
- black ink or tempera paint
- tissue
- glue
- ribbon
- hole punch

Procedure:

1. Cut out a shape from white poster board.
2. Draw a design on the shape with a pencil. Use sharpened crayons to color in the design, pressing firmly and leaving a line of white showing between the colors.
3. Brush the shape with black ink to fill in the white spaces between the colors. (If you don't have ink, use tempera paint instead. Wipe the ink or paint from the crayoned areas with a tissue before it dries.)
4. Cut a piece of black poster board slightly larger than the shape you colored. Glue the shape to it.
5. Tie and glue on a ribbon bow. Punch a hole in the top of the poster board, and add ribbon to hang it up.

35. What is the **most likely** reason the picture is included in the selection?

- A to help students understand what kind of activity they will be doing
- B to help students pick out colors for their project
- C to help students understand how long it takes to finish the project
- D to help students draw their own pictures

36. Why do you need to punch a hole in the top of the poster board?

- A The hole allows the glue to dry faster.
- B The hole allows you to hang up your project.
- C The hole lets you see the colors of the designs.
- D The hole makes the project easier to carry.

37. Of all the tasks mentioned in the project, which task lets you pick your own design the **most**?

- A cut a piece of black poster board
- B punch a hole in the top
- C wipe the ink or paint from the crayoned areas before it dries
- D cut out a shape from white poster board

38. Which would **best** fit if added to the selection?

- A I'm not sure how much crayons cost.
- B Ink or tempera paint will not stick to the areas you have crayoned.
- C Ink was first invented in China over 5,000 years ago.
- D Coloring books are great, too.

Directions: Let's get back to "Tarantula!" If you think of any more questions about the passage, write them in the margins.

Eat or Be Eaten

Tarantulas don't just eat. They are in danger of *being* eaten, too. Birds, mice, and other tarantulas try to kill them for food. But tarantulas have many defenses. Sometimes they try to scare away their enemies. They stand up on their hind legs and rub their jaws together to make a loud *H-I-S-S* sound.

Other tarantulas have an even more interesting way to scare off animals that might be looking for a furry meal. These tarantulas are covered with thousands of tiny hairs. When they rub their legs together, the hairs fly off their bodies and into the eyes, nose, and mouth of their attacker. The hairs have tiny hooks on them, so you can imagine how this trick might send an enemy packing.

Even with these great defenses, many young tarantulas are eaten by other animals. But some tarantulas live very long lives—up to 20 years or longer. ♦

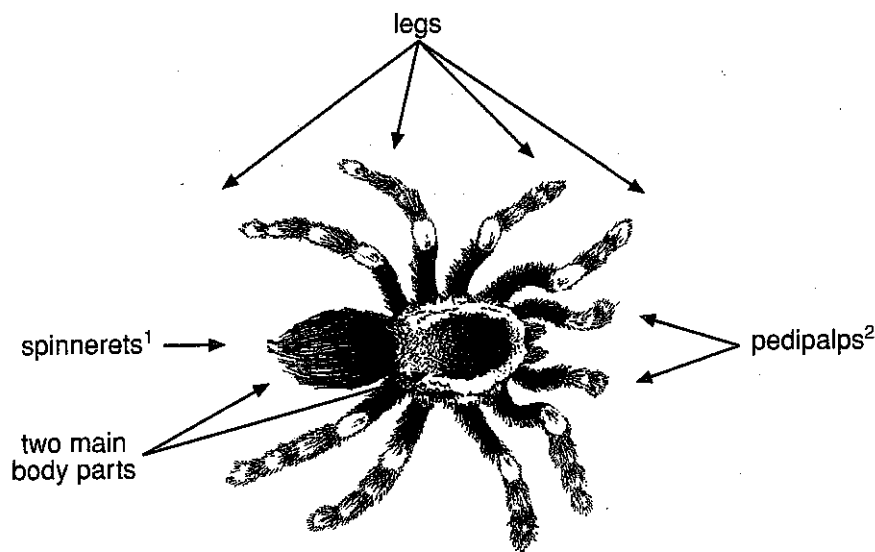


Figure 1

¹**Spinnerets**—help spiders spin silk

²**Pedipalps**—look like legs, but form the sides of the mouth

Tip 8 After you read, go back and skim for the main points.

After you finish reading, go back to the passage and skim for the main points or the main events. Summarize the main points or retell the main events to make sure you understand the passage.

Sample Reading Questions

1. Which of the following would you not find when previewing "Tarantula!"?

- A. footnotes C. illustrations
- B. bar graphs D. subheadings

2. How does the illustration (*Figure 1*) on page 41 help the reader understand the passage?

- A. It shows the number of legs on a trap-door spider.
- B. It shows how tarantulas scare hungry animals away.
- C. It shows and describes the main body parts of all tarantulas.
- D. It shows the difference between bird spiders and funnel-web spiders.

3. For which reason would most people probably read this passage?

- A. to learn more about tarantulas
- B. to solve the problem of tarantula bites
- C. to find out about the world's oldest living tarantula
- D. to learn how to line a trap-door spider burrow with silk

4. How would you summarize the information provided about the South American bird spider?

5. Which of the following is a statement of fact?

- A. To be bitten by one of these spiders wouldn't be pleasant.
- B. Sometimes even little spiders look a bit creepy crawling around.
- C. The tarantula's poisonous bite helps it kill insects and other small animals for food.
- D. Other tarantulas have an even more interesting way to scare off animals that might be looking for a furry meal.

Additional Practice Questions

6. The passage says, ".....people rarely die from a tarantula bite." *Rarely* means
- A. never.
 - B. usually.
 - C. fairly often.
 - D. hardly ever.
7. How did the bird spider get its name?
- A. It can fly.
 - B. It is poisonous.
 - C. It eats small birds.
 - D. It has tail feathers.
8. A tarantula makes a loud *H-I-S-S* sound in order to
- A. attract other spiders.
 - B. scare off an attacker.
 - C. attract small birds for food.
 - D. find out if an insect is nearby.
9. If you want to find out how to pronounce the word "tarantula," in which book should you look?
- A. a dictionary
 - B. an atlas
 - C. an almanac
 - D. an encyclopedia
10. What would be the best way to check to see if the information in this passage is correct?
- A. Carefully reread the passage.
 - B. Ask someone who owns a pet spider.
 - C. Look up the word *tarantula* in a dictionary.
 - D. Look up the word *tarantula* in an encyclopedia.

Name _____



Date _____

Martin Luther King Jr.

By Mary L. Bushong

Not long ago, life in our southern states was much different from the way it is today. The people there lived divided lives. White people and black people did not eat in the same restaurants, go to the same schools, or even drink from the same water fountains. That division is called segregation. Many people did not like that and wanted to change things, but they needed a leader. That leader was Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. He learned about segregation at the age of six, when the parents of his white friends would not let him play with their children anymore. After finishing college in Boston, he returned to the South and became the pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. King knew that segregation was wrong. It meant that people were treated better or worse just because of the color of their skin.



People began to notice Dr. King during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The law then said that white people got to sit at the front of the bus and got in at the front door of the bus. Blacks sat at the back of the bus and got in at the back door. On December 1, 1955, a black woman named Rosa Parks got on the bus. She had worked all day. When a white man wanted to sit in her seat, she refused, and she was arrested.

Her arrest made many people angry. Jo Ann Robinson, leader of the Women's Political Council, suggested the black community follow a one-day boycott of the city buses. That seemed to work so well that black leaders in the community wanted to continue the boycott. The "Montgomery Improvement Association" was formed to coordinate the boycott. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was elected president of the MIA. The group called for an end to segregation on city buses. Dr. King began to make speeches about civil rights.

Blacks in Montgomery refused to ride the buses. They walked or rode bicycles to work, which made the bus company lose a lot of business. Dr. King convinced the people to act with an attitude of dignity and courage rather than anger. At age 27, his self-control and insistence on nonviolence made him a great spokesman for the boycott and a strong leader for the civil rights movement. In November 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on transportation was unconstitutional. The first of many battles had been won.

In 1957 Dr. King took another big step as a leader for civil rights by forming the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Then on May 17 of that year he spoke to a crowd of 15,000 in Washington, D.C.

In response to that conference, in 1958 Congress passed the first Civil Rights Act since Reconstruction. Not everyone liked Dr. King's influence, though. One day while on a walking tour through Harlem, he was attacked and stabbed. That did not stop him from doing what he thought was right. He met with other black leaders and President Dwight D. Eisenhower to discuss problems.

Dr. King was very interested in the idea of nonviolent protest that Mohandas Gandhi had been teaching in India. It was an idea that Dr. King believed in, and he was finally able to go to India in 1959 to study Gandhi's ideas more fully.

Early in 1960, he and his family moved back to Atlanta. In those days, blacks could not sit down in any café or lunchroom. Dr. King was arrested there while he waited to be served in a restaurant. He did not serve jail time, because John F. and Robert Kennedy stepped in to help.

Due to Dr. King's continuing work, segregation was outlawed on all interstate transportation in 1961. That meant all public transportation that went from one state to another could not be segregated. During another demonstration to desegregate public facilities in 1963, he was arrested in Birmingham, Alabama. It was from the jail there that he wrote his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Several white ministers thought that his efforts were badly timed. He noted that while countries in Africa and Asia were quickly getting their independence, American blacks had almost none.

Name _____



Date _____

In August 1963 the largest civil rights demonstration in history was held; almost 250,000 people attended. It was at this time that Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

When Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was the youngest person to ever receive this honor at that time, and it became a crowning achievement in his life. Soon afterward, new legislation was passed in Congress. Until that time, some states had kept blacks from voting by making them pay a poll tax first. The poor could not afford the tax. Congress outlawed this practice with the 24th Amendment.

Some states then tried to keep people from voting if they could not read. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 stopped that. A drive to register voters in Selma, Alabama, was met with violent resistance. In protest, thousands of people marched for five days from Selma to Montgomery, the capital of Alabama.

Civil rights had changed many things in the South, but little was changing in the North. There, they were not segregated, but the poor blacks had fewer opportunities than their white neighbors. Dr. King was determined to help them, too. In 1966, he moved to a slum apartment in Chicago, Illinois, and began to organize protests. He wanted the city's discrimination against blacks for jobs, housing, and schools to stop.

It was not long before Dr. King became active in taking a stand against the war in Vietnam. He complained that all the money spent on weapons could have been used to make the lives of the poor better. He also hated the violence of it. Many people thought his comments took attention away from civil rights.

In November 1967, Dr. King announced a new Poor People's Campaign to help the poor of all races obtain jobs and freedom. He announced a march to be held in Washington, D.C., for the next year; unfortunately he was unable to attend that event.

In March 1968, Dr. King led a march in Memphis, Tennessee. It was the first of his marches that turned violent. At it, he delivered his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech.

On April 4, as he was standing on the balcony of the hotel where he was staying, a sniper shot him. His death shocked the nation and spawned riots in more than 100 American cities. He was buried in Atlanta.

Within a week of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, Congress passed the Open Housing Act. In 1977 he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work. No one person has done more to improve civil rights in the United States than Dr. King. His persuasive ability united many people in a quest for racial equality. To honor his achievements, a national holiday was established by Congress in 1986, and is celebrated on the third Monday of January.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Questions

1. Segregation meant that:

- A. Blacks and whites were separated.
- B. Blacks and whites could sit together on buses.
- C. Blacks and whites had to live in different towns.

2. What do you think you would have done if you had been Rosa Parks?

Name _____



Date _____

The Boasting Traveler

By Brenda B. Covert

"That was the best trip ever!" the traveler declared. People turned to look at him.

In the village of Marsden, it was uncommon for anyone to leave for an extended period of time. Certainly, people didn't go gallivanting across Europe for fun. However, that is exactly what Travis Runion had done. Now he was home to tell everyone all about his adventures.

"Where did you go?" a boy in a blue shirt and jeans asked.

"Where didn't I go? That's the question," Travis replied with a wink.

"Have you been to Spain?" a woman with short gray hair asked.

"Of course!" replied Travis with a shrug. "I ran with the bulls there. I outran the bulls and everyone else!"

"Did you go to France?" a young man in a suit with a newspaper under his arm inquired.

"Ah, yes, France was magnifique," bragged Travis. "I learned to paint with a master. People said that my painting was better than anything he had ever done!" He shook his head. "I should have kept it, but I was offered a large sum of money for it. Selling it seemed like the right thing to do at the time."

"It sounds like the trip of a lifetime," a voice said from behind.

Travis turned around. There stood Reggie Wilkerson. Travis and Reggie had been schoolmates. Reggie had taken a job at the post office. While Travis was out traveling around the world, Reggie was handling envelopes that had traveled around the world. That was possibly as close to world travel as Reggie would get, Travis thought snidely.

"Oh, believe me, it was," Travis replied. He went on to boast about more amazing things he had done while he was away.

"In Greece," he said, "there were a lot of Olympic-style competitions. One was a long-jump competition that I decided on a whim to sign up for."

"How did you do?" asked a wide-eyed teenage girl with long brown hair.

"I'll tell you," Travis answered. "I jumped so far that I broke the record! No one else even came close!"

"I'll bet," snorted Reggie.

Travis frowned. "On my honor, I swear that it's true. You can ask anyone who was there, and you'll see. Lots of people saw me do the long jump. They'll tell you that I won by a wide margin."

Reggie folded his arms across his chest. "That won't be necessary. You're right here, and there's plenty of space for a running start. We don't need to talk to witnesses when you can simply demonstrate your jumping skills. Go ahead; show us how well you can leap."

Travis' face burned bright red. He who does a thing well does not need to boast.

Name _____



Date _____

The Boasting Traveler

Questions

1. In what country did Travis claim to have broken a record?

2. Why did Travis' face burn at the end of the story?

_____ 3. Which one of these countries was NOT mentioned in the story?

- A. Greece
- B. France
- C. Spain
- D. Italy

_____ 4. Which of these is a synonym for the word *gallivanting* in paragraph 2?

- A. traveling
- B. studying
- C. galloping
- D. rebelling

_____ 5. In which country was Travis' hometown of Marsden?

- A. Scotland
- B. Ireland
- C. Great Britain
- D. The story didn't say.

_____ 6. Which of these best describes Reggie Wilkerson?

- A. Skeptical
- B. Magnificent
- C. Gullible
- D. Enthusiastic

_____ 7. What did Travis use as evidence to prove that he had won a long-jump competition?

- A. He had a newspaper clipping.
- B. He had a video of the event.
- C. He said that he had witnesses.
- D. He had won a gold medal.