

# What Spiders Live Near You?

We see spiders everywhere, don't we? But what do we know about the ones living in our neighborhood, our yard, or even our house?

Here's a fun way to identify and learn more about our spider friends while observing them in the wild.

It's a spider observation station!

Ok, it's not an actual station, but it's a way to observe and learn about the species of spiders we live with and see every day. Here's what you'll need:

## Materials:

- A smart phone, tablet, or e-reader-something you can download apps into.
- A nature/insect/spider identification app. See the list below.
- A field journal or notebook where you can record your observations and notes.
- A pen or pencil

## Steps:

1. Download an identification app. The apps we found are

- Picture Insect: Spiders & Bugs
- Insect ID: Bug AI
- Insect Identification Bug ID
- Seek by iNaturalist
- Spider Identifier Bug Finder



2. Find a spider. Look in your house, your garden/yard, or around your neighborhood.

3. Follow the instructions the app gives you to allow it to identify your spider. You might have to take a photo of it and upload it to the site, or it may ask you your city and state, then show you photos of common spiders in your area.

4. After you've identified your spider, find out more about it. Does it spin a web? How does it catch prey? What types of prey does it prefer? What is its lifespan? How many offspring does it produce? If it lives outside, how does it adapt to changing climates?

5. Write down your spider's information in your field journal. Make sure you note the location so you can come back and find it again.

6. Observe and learn: Observe your spider over a length of time. Is it nocturnal or diurnal? Does it move its web to different locations? Does it blend in to its environment? Has it caught anything in its web?

**Spiders can be Fascinating, Fabulous, and Fun!**