

A small spider creeps slowly along a leaf. It is hunting for prey but it does not use a web. It is a jumping spider. It stalks its prey, like a cat. Suddenly the spider leaps through the air and pounces on a fly.



When a male jumping spider finds a female, he must be very careful. She may pounce on him and eat him! This dark-colored male does a little dance as he comes near the brown female. He waves his legs in the air or jumps up and down. The female understands that the male wants to mate, so she lets him come closer.





After mating, the female spins a sac of silk on a leaf. She lays her eggs in the sac. Then she spins more silk to “sew” the sac closed and stick it firmly to the leaf. The spider will stand over her sac to protect the eggs inside.







Dozens of tiny spiderlings hatch in the sac.  
They begin hunting on their own right away.  
Spiderlings eat tiny flies and other insects.  
The spiderlings look like adult spiders with  
eight legs and two body parts.







A spiderling grows until it is too big for its hard skin. Then it must molt, or shed its skin. It walks away in a new, bigger skin and leaves the old skin behind. The old skin is just an empty shell, but you can tell a spider was once inside! The spiderling will molt at least four times before it is full-grown.







The young spider is nearly full-grown, and it is a skilled hunter. Its big eyes help it spot prey from far away. It has four eyes on top of its head and four more on the front!



A jumping spider is only half an inch long, but it can leap 20 inches. It jumps 40 times its own length. If you jumped that well, you would go halfway down a soccer field in one leap! The spider may miss its target, but it spins a “safety line” of silk so it will not fall to the ground.



Spiders cannot chew, so they turn their prey into soup! A jumping spider sinks its fangs into a fly and injects a poison that kills the fly. Then it pumps in special juices that turn the fly's insides to a liquid. The spider sucks up the liquid with its mouth.





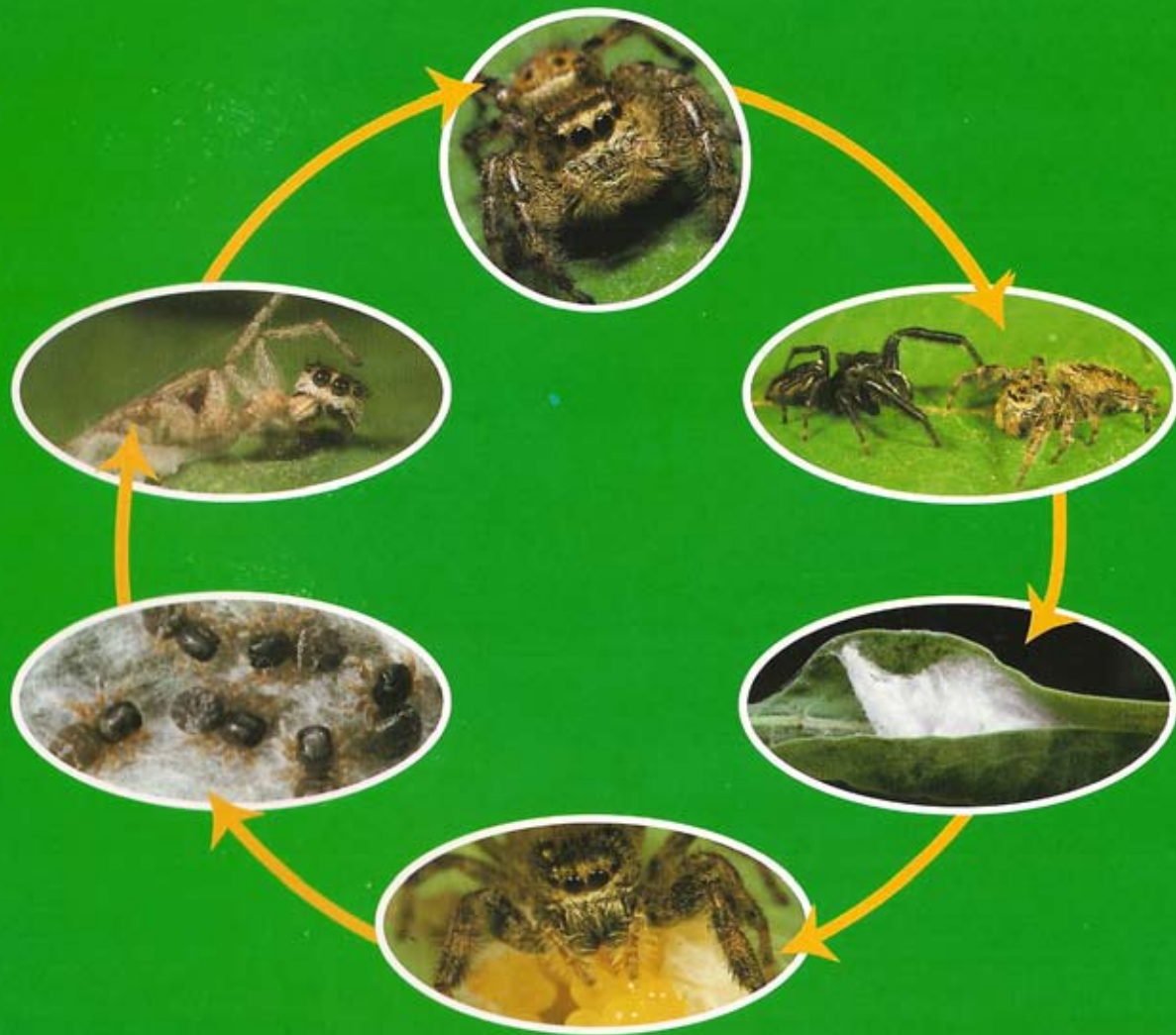
When it is one year old, the jumping spider will find a mate. Then a new generation of jumping spiders will be born.

Can you put these in order?





Answer





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