



IDNR Illinois Biodiversity Spider Study

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Northwestern University's Collaboratory Project, invites all 4th, 5th and 6th grade teachers to participate in the **IDNR Biodiversity Spider Study**. In this year-long biodiversity project, students across Illinois will collect data on the life-cycle and activities of targeted spider populations in and around their school to help IDNR scientists learn more about spiders in Illinois.

Even though they've been around for about 350 million years, with over 40,000 different kinds of spiders in the world, there are lots of things we still do not know about spiders. IDNR scientists have invited students across Illinois to collect and report on the spider populations in and around their school throughout the year to help them learn more about the spiders of Illinois. With over 600 different species of spiders in Illinois, you can find out things nobody, not even scientists, knows!

IDNR Spider Reference Cybrary

By using the Cybrary, which organizes online resources, students will learn all about the anatomy, habitat, life-cycle and life styles of spiders. Students will also learn about the specific spider species they will monitor throughout the year.

IDNR Spider Life-Cycle Data Collection Survey

Students will use the Data Collection Survey to collect and report data about spider habitat, spider populations and the spiders' activities throughout the school year. They will be able to analyze their results along with the results of other classrooms.

IDNR Spiders of Illinois Research Community

Students will use a Nexus Community to create, share, and discuss observations and pictures in on-line, multimedia Spider Journals. They will share their observations and data analysis with other participating classes in Monthly Reports in the Nexus Collaboratory

IDNR Spiders of Illinois Interactive Map

An Interactive Map that will display the location of the Study Areas that are being monitored by students across Illinois and link to their Monthly Reports and Data.

Participating in the IDNR Biodiversity Spider Study

If you are a 4th, 5th or 6th grade teacher interested in participating in the **IDNR Illinois Biodiversity Spider Study**, please send an email to Valerie Keener at valerie.keener@illinois.gov. Please include your Name, email address, phone number, grade level, school and city in your message.

Please direct any questions to

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<http://collaboratory.nunet.net/IDNRSpiders>

