



Time Needed for Activity

30 minutes

Materials Needed

Journal

Phone, tablet, or Chromebook

Binoculars

North Carolina Spider Identification Guide

Spiderweb Classification Guide

Things to remember:

Wear sunscreen

You might want insect repellent

Check yourself for ticks when you finish

Be aware of surroundings when searching in places such as bushes, rock piles, or wood piles

Elon Explorers Day Three: Predator or prey?

Overview. Campers will explore the characteristics of predators and prey, and some of the adaptations and behaviors of predators, by investigating a common predator-prey interaction.

Today’s asynchronous science activity:

Please go to a safe outdoor space to search for spiderwebs. We would like for you to collect the following data for at least three spider webs and record it in your journals:

- Web location
- Web type (Using the Spiderweb Classification Guide)
- Organisms on Web (Identifying them as best you can)
- Spider Identification (Using Spider Identification Guide)

Here’s an example:

Web Location	Web Type	Organisms on Web	Spider Identification
fence	sheet web	no spider, mosquito	Unable to identify
porch corner	cob web	spider	American House Spider

Search for 25 minutes. You're likely to find spiders in corners on the exterior of your home, between pillars of fences, or between tree branches. They are easiest to find in the morning when dew is on the webs, because it makes them more obvious. Upload photos to iNaturalist for help with identification.

If you don’t take any photos, or if you are not able to locate any spiderwebs, that’s okay! Look up an interesting spiderweb to share with the class this afternoon. Once you’ve gathered photos you took or from the web, find the link titled “Predator or prey” on the Elon Explorers website. Upload them here. We will discuss your findings during the afternoon meeting!

Use the following guides to help with spider and web identification:

Spiderweb Classification: https://3vswoj22h217nt08f1ye9o4r-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/spider_webs.pdf

North Carolina Spider Identification

Guide:<https://files.nc.gov/ncparks/481/Common%20Spiders%20of%20NC.pdf>

You can watch the “How to search for spiders” video on the Elon Explorers website for more help.