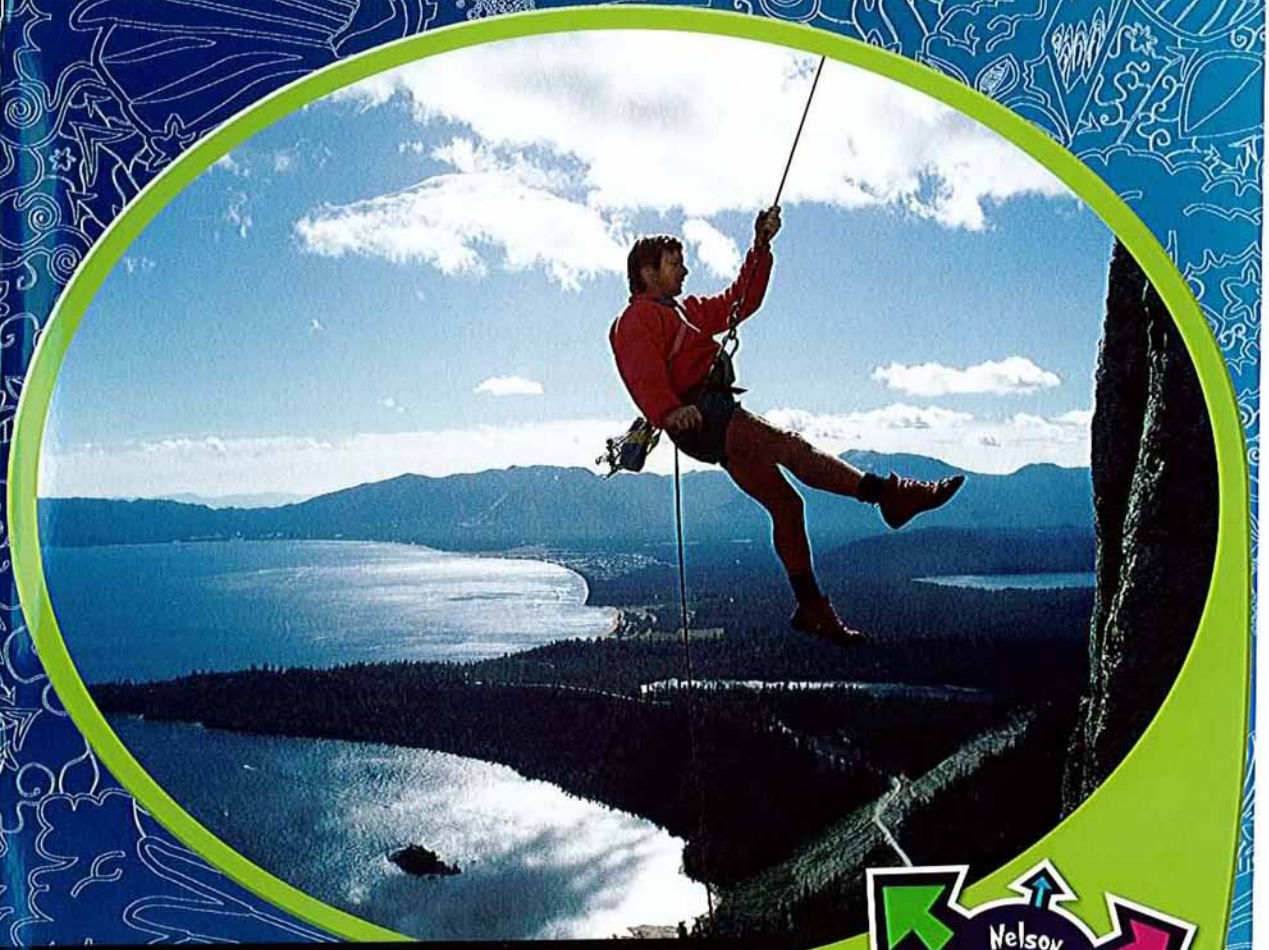
Hanging by Threads



ANIMALS and PEOPLE that hang around for WORK, ADVENTURE and ENTERTAINMENT

Sharon Parsons

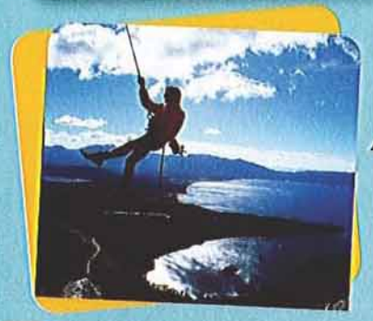
Nelson Literacy Directions

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People hang by threads for work, adventure and fun. And spiders hang as they await their prey!



2 Hanging to Hunt page 6

Spiders weave strong, sticky threads to catch their prey. How do they do it?

3 Hanging to Abseil page 8

People abseil for adventure and fun, and to rescue other people and animals!

4 Hanging for Window Work page 12

Meet two mothers who abseil down high-rise buildings to clean windows!

5 Hanging to Skydive page 14

TEXT TYPE Information Report

A skydiving report. How far down do skydivers freefall?



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Spacecraft land safely with the help of parachutes.

7 Hanging to Entertain page 18

Circus performers hang from ropes and cables to entertain us with acts.



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Some people hang from helicopters to help in rescues and on movie sets.

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1 Hanging by Threads

Just **Hanging** Around

Glance up and you'll see many people hanging by threads. People use extra-strong threads for all kinds of work and activities in the air.

Spiders not only hang by threads, they are clever enough to make them as well!

Physical Science

Force of Gravity

Gravity is the force that draws objects to other objects. For example, the Earth's gravity draws you down to the ground when you fall.

Strong Forces

When people hang by threads, the forces of wind and gravity can make them move sideways or down. These forces affect what equipment or materials are used to keep people safe.

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2 Hanging to Hunt

The **Magic** of Web Weaving

An orb spider weaves a web with silk threads to catch its prey, such as flies. Then it hangs quietly on a thread, waiting for its prey to arrive.

Silk is Stronger Than Steel

Spider-web silk is stronger and lighter than steel of the same size. Kevlar is the only man-made fibre that is stronger than spider silk.



Threads at Night

Orb spiders often work on their webs at night.

Life Science

Is the Spider Monkey Like a Spider?

Some might say YES! The spider monkey looks like a spider because it has long, slender hands and limbs. It hangs from rainforest branches and rarely comes to the ground.



a spider monkey

Life Science

Uses for Silk Thread

Spiders have many uses for their silk thread:

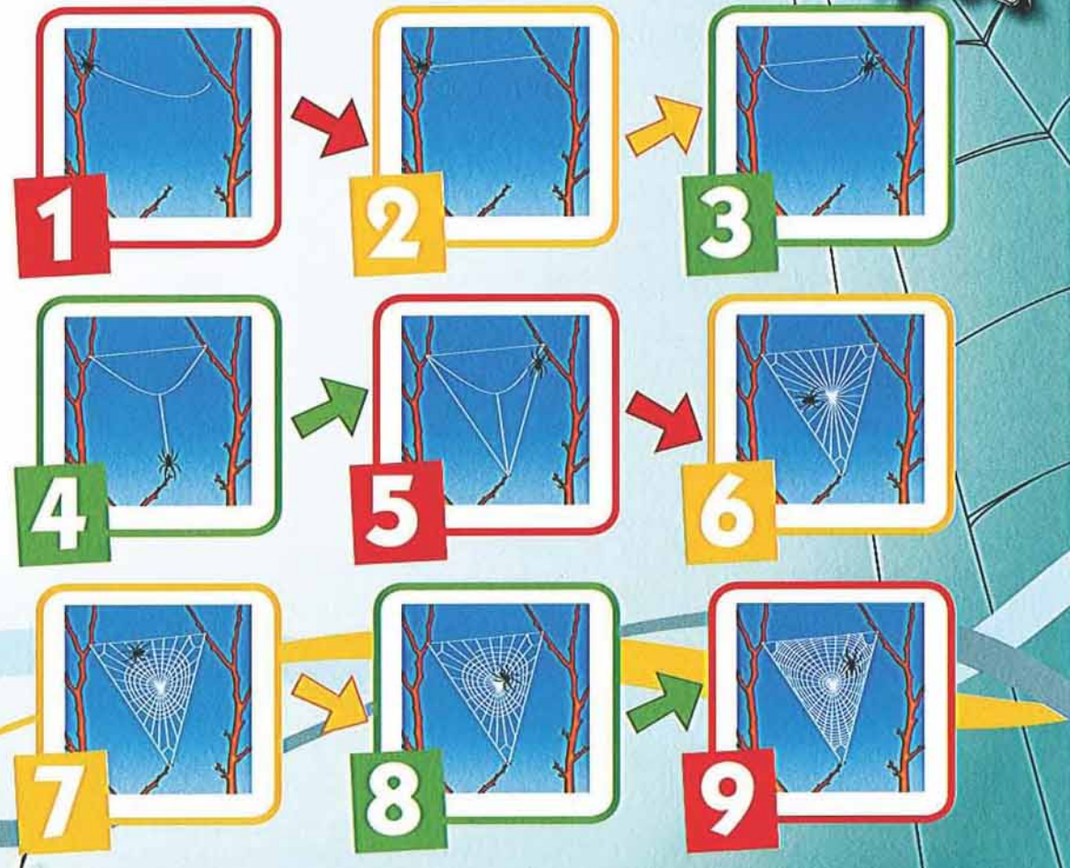
- *for the spiral part of the web*
- *for the straight lines supporting the web and the web's outer rim*
- *to wrap around prey in their web*
- *for females to spin egg sacs.*

The First Thread

LOOK AT STEP 1

Q: How does a spider get the first thread to reach the other side, and make it stick there?

A: The wind helps, and so does some luck!



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