

What do I need?

3 garden twigs

White twine

Scissors

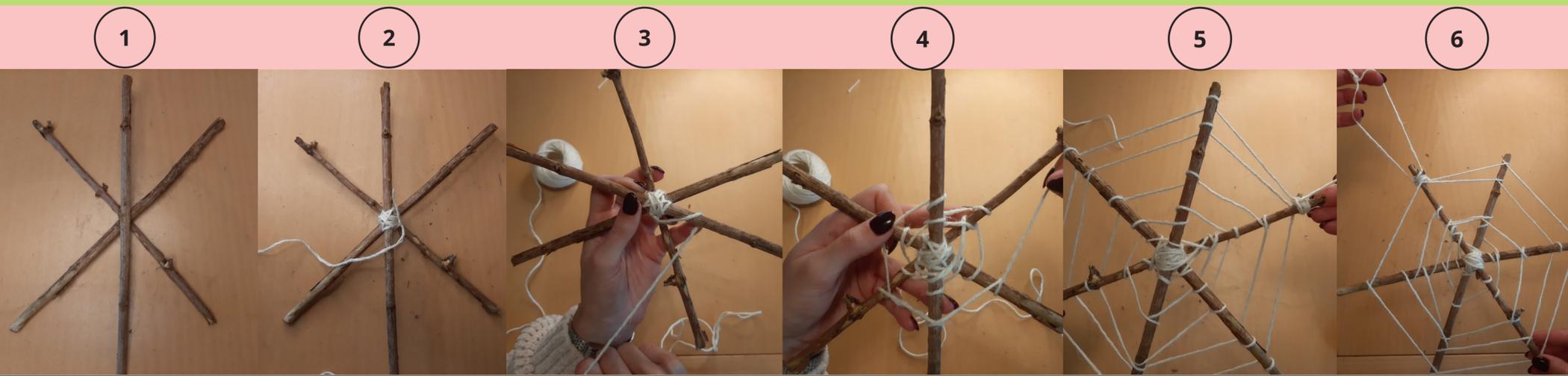


garden twig spiderweb

What do I do?

Spiderwebs are intricate pieces of art - it can take a spider hours to complete one! Read page 2 to learn more about spiders and their webs, then follow the instructions below.

1. Arrange your first 2 twigs in a cross (X) then lay your third twig vertically on top of them.
2. Tie your twine around the midpoint of the three sticks by weaving it around them and tying it in place with a double knot.
3. Next, start weaving your twine around the centre by carefully twisting it around each twig. Make sure you keep the twine taut so that the web keeps its shape.
4. Keep the circles of twine close together near the centre and then slowly make the gaps wider as you weave towards the ends of the twigs. This is how a spider spins its web!
5. When you reach the ends of the twigs, tie the twine in a double knot and cut away any excess.
6. To display your finished spider web, tie a short length of twine onto one of the twigs so you can hang it in a tree or in a window.



more about spiders



Facts about spiders

Did you know that there are more than 45,000 species of spider around the world, each with different adaptations to thrive where they live?

Most spider species are carnivorous, hunting and feeding on small insects. Spiders don't have teeth so they can't actually eat with their mouths. Instead they inject their prey with a special chemical that starts to digest it so that the spider can suck out the remains - just like a vampire!

While not all spiders spin webs, every spider does produce silk. Spider silk is extremely versatile and different spider species use it for different purposes. For example, some spin their silk around them so that they can safely submerge themselves underwater, some spin sling-shot like structures to catch their unsuspecting prey, while others make hang-gliders out of their silk to transport them to different places using the wind!

Facts about spider webs

Spiders' silk is one of the strongest and versatile materials in the world. Some species of spider can produce more than one type of silk, each with different properties to help capturing prey, such as stickiness, strength and flexibility.

Most of the spiders we are used to seeing in Europe build their webs in trees, bushes or between man-made structures so they can intercept flying insects. Many spider species use their webs in very different ways though! For example, some ground spider species will immobilise their prey by shooting out a string of sticky silk a bit like a slingshot!

Some borrowing spiders use their silk to build little homes for themselves in the ground to protect themselves from predators or flooding!

