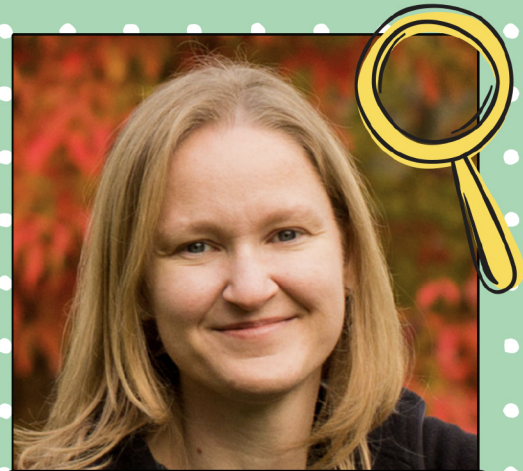


BEADED SPIDERS

Ronda Hamm is an entomologist, which means she studies insects. But even she was a little fearful of arachnids like spiders. Now she gets great joy helping others turn their fear of bugs into fascination. The fear of spiders is common. That fear has a name: arachnophobia. It covers all arachnids including scorpions.

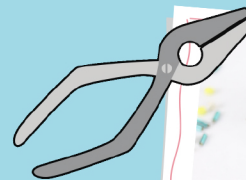
However, spiders can actually be good! They eat pests, like flies and mosquitos, as well as insects that harm crops. Even though they are venomous, the venom is usually not poisonous to humans. In this activity, we'll make beaded spiders that are sure to spark fascination—not fear—with anyone who crosses their path.



Ronda Hamm leads an entomology and grasshopper research team for Corteva Agriscience.

YOU WILL NEED :

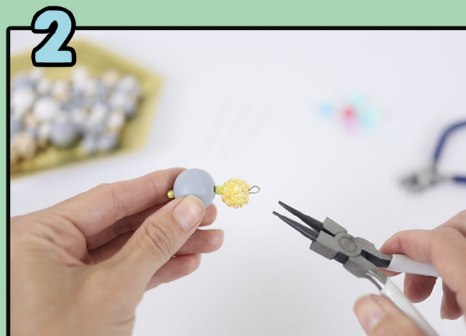
- Jewelry Headpin
- Round Nose Pliers
- Beads of various sizes
- 22 Gauge Crafting Wire
- Jewelry Wire Cutters



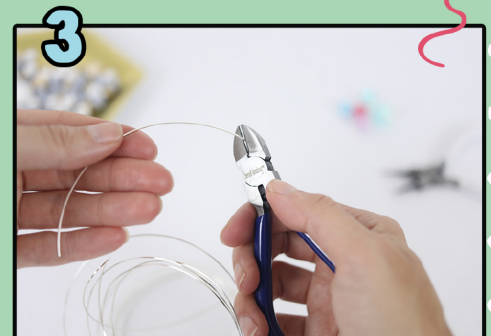
ALWAYS ASK AN ADULT FOR PERMISSION AND HELP!



To make the head and body, string 4 beads: 1 seed bead, 1 large bead, 1 seed bead, and 1 medium bead onto a headpin.



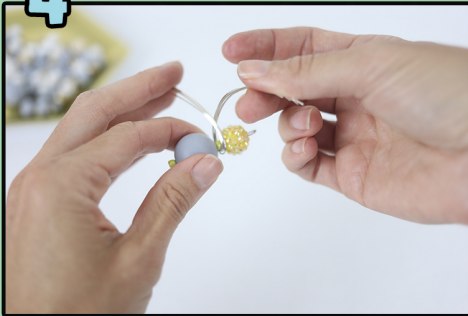
Using the round nose pliers, twist the end into a loop so the beads stay in place. You may have to first trim the excess wire with a wire cutter.



Cut four pieces of crafting wire about 5" long each.

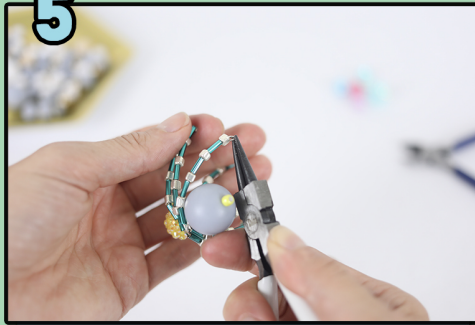


4



To make the legs, stack the wire then place the center of the stack around the center seed bead (between the medium and large bead). Wrap around once to secure it in place.

5



Now begin stringing seed beads onto each leg. Finish each leg by curling the end of the wire into a loop with round nose pliers.

6



Arrange the legs in a spider-like stance then admire your not-so-creepy crawlies!

THINK ABOUT IT!

When you think of animal conservation, you may think of polar bears, whales, or tigers. But have you ever thought of bug conservation? Without spiders, crops get damaged by pests. We harvest fruits, vegetables, and grains from crops. Scientists believe that if spiders disappeared, humans would suffer from famine, which is an extreme scarcity of food.

The same case can be made for bees. Plants can't make seed without pollen, and the only way many of them can get pollen is from a bee. Bees pollinate 75% of vegetables, fruits, and nuts that are grown in the United States. That means you can thank a bee for one out of every four bites of food you take! It's hard to believe that one small insect could provide so much benefit to humans, but it's true. How can you help bees and spiders survive in your area?



LEARN MORE

Insect Superpowers by Kate Messner
Chronicle Books, 2019

Wicked Bugs (Young Reader's Edition) by Amy Stewart
Algonquin Young Readers, 2017

Spiders by Kay De Silva
Aurora, 2016



FUN FACT!

The largest spider in the world is the South American Goliath birdeater. It has a leg span of 12 inches and a body the size of a large fist.