

School-to-Nature



JUMPING SPIDER

The Jumping Spider can be called the “friendliest” of the spiders we encounter, because it is curious and watchful when we are near. A jumping spider may jump toward you (and scare you accidentally!), or it may jump back if it feels threatened. It’s rare for this type of spider to bite a human; even if it does, a reaction to the bite is unusual.

A few in the Jumping Spider family can reach up to just under an inch in size, but most are much smaller, like the one in the photo at the top right. Jumping spiders have 4 pairs of eyes, shown closeup in the photos to the right. One set of eyes is on the backside; and the front center eyes are larger, which is an identifying characteristic.



These spiders make up 13% of all the spiders on earth, and with 6,000 varieties they are very diverse in looks. Their lifespan is 1 to 2 years. Jumping spiders really do jump- they leap upon their prey, and can leap 50 times the length of their size. They hunt mostly flies, mealworms, and moths. They will also eat other species of spiders, and have been observed eating flower pollen and nectar. They prefer an outdoor habitat. If they end up indoors, they will seek out a door or window to make prey easier to find. If they need to jump down, they create a tether of silk that they use to climb back up.

Mother spiders lay a clutch of eggs in a nest and will feed the hatchling spiders for several days before they are on their own. In winter, Jumping Spiders wrap themselves in silk and hibernate in a sheltered place, under bark or under a rock.

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