

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Unusual Animals: Spiney Orbweaver



Some people dislike spiders. Many people will kill a spider if it is crawling nearby. However, spiders can be very helpful. This helpful spider is the spiney orbweaver. It may look scary, but it may help keep you safe.

An orbweaver spider has a big thorns on its abdomen. The thorns protect the orbweaver from predators. These colorful spines can be red, black and blue. The spines make the orbweaver spider look dangerous. However, only insects need to be afraid of the orbweaver spider. It is not dangerous to people.

How does the orbweaver help people? These spiders make big webs. The webs can catch bugs like mosquitoes and bees. Mosquitoes carry man diseases. Bees can sting people. The orbweaver catches and eats these dangerous insects in its web. That makes the orbweaver a better friend than enemy. The next time you see a spider think before you leap! That spider may be keeping you safe from more dangerous insects.

A. What color is the spiney orbweaver? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Read the story. Complete the chart.

Spiney Orbweaver		How Orbweavers Help People
Description	Interesting Fact	

C. Now that you have learned about the spiney orbweaver does it change your mind about spiders? Why or why not? Tell your partner what you think.