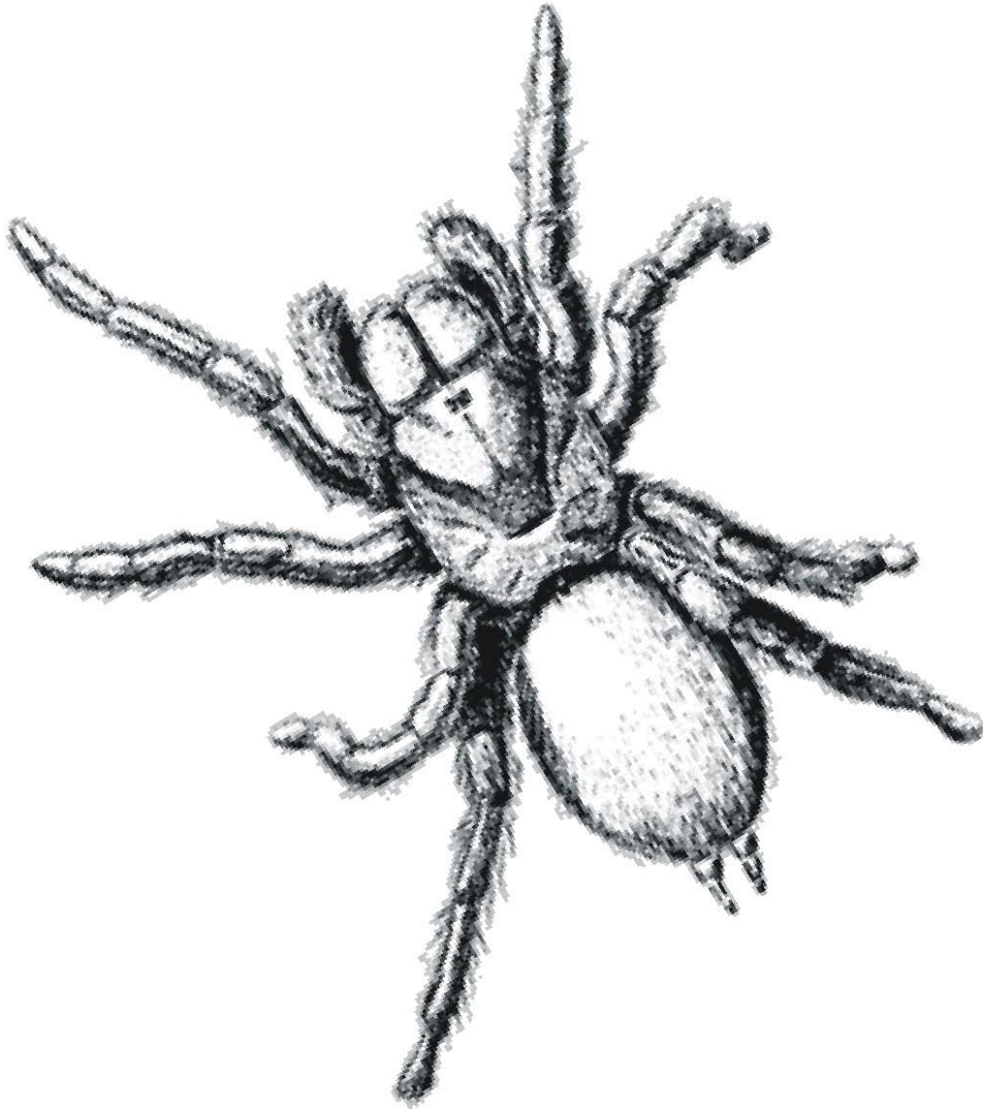


My Tarantula Book

Name



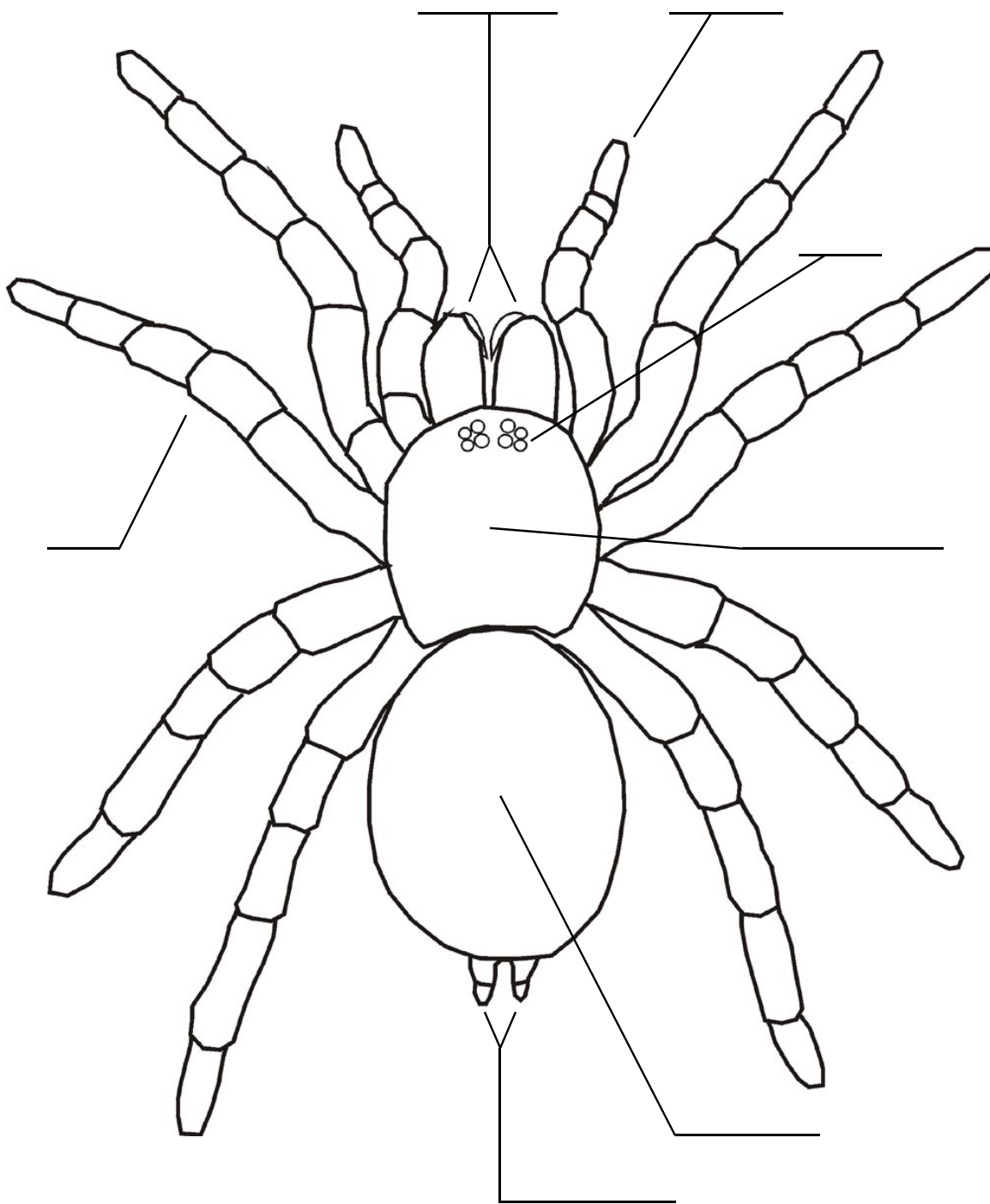
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage
1500 Tower Building * 323 Center Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
501-324-9619

arkansas@naturalheritage.org

www.naturalheritage.com

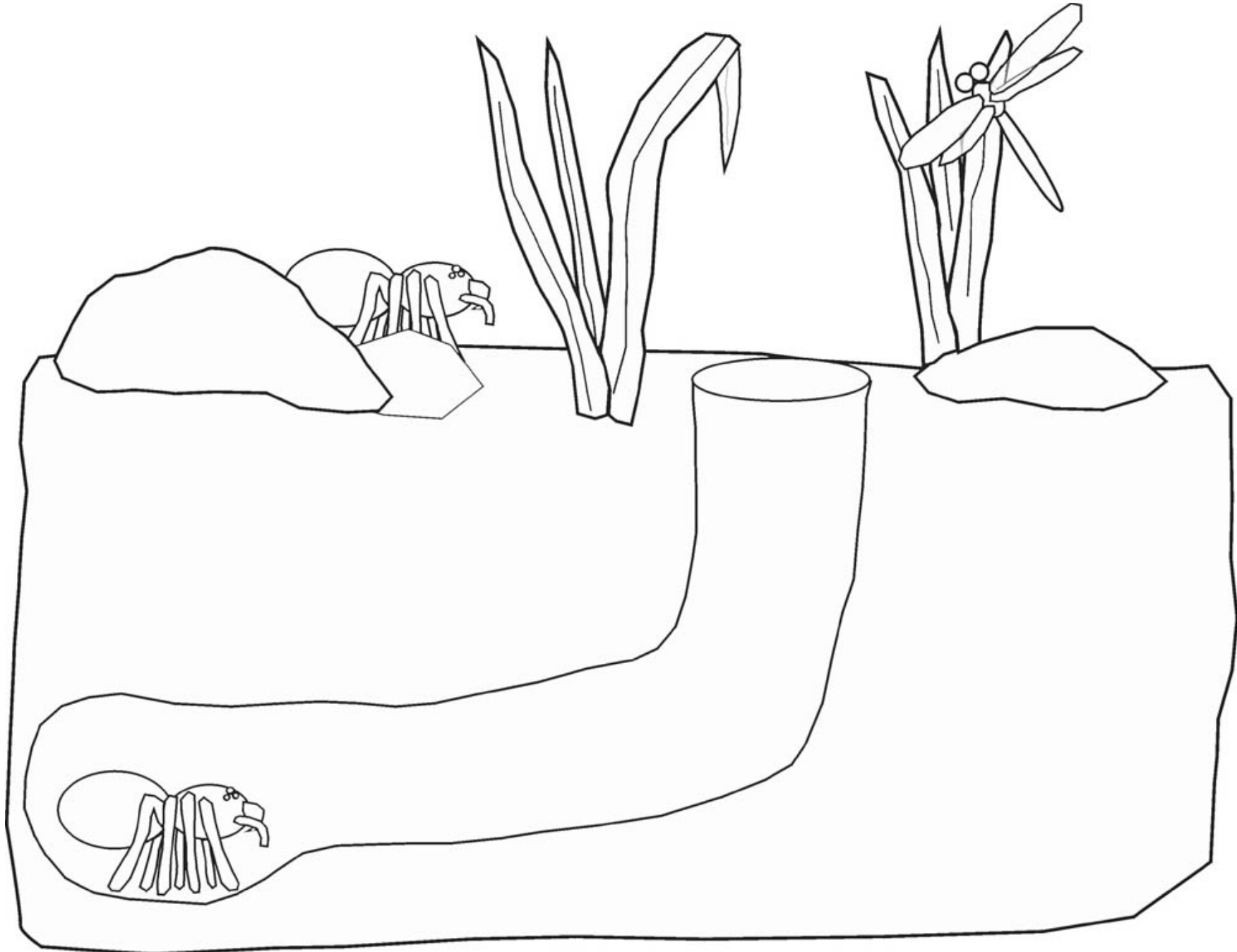


Anatomy of the Texas Brown Tarantula

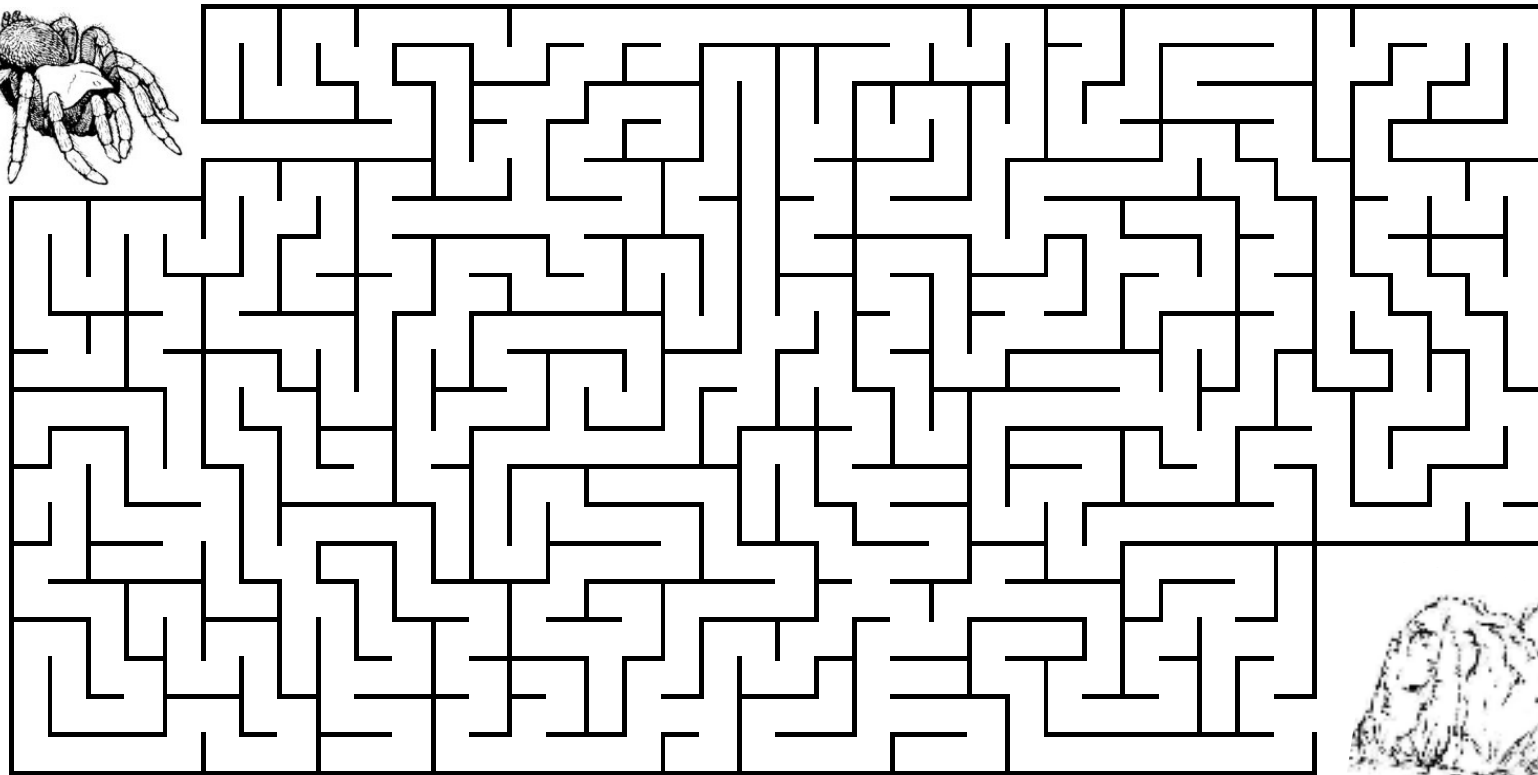
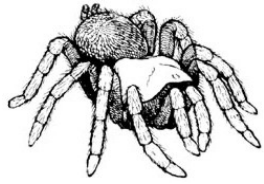




Texas Brown Tarantula Burrow



TARANTULA MAZE



Help the young male tarantula in the upper left corner find his way to the female outside her burrow in the lower right corner



Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
www.naturalheritage.com





Tarantula Word Search

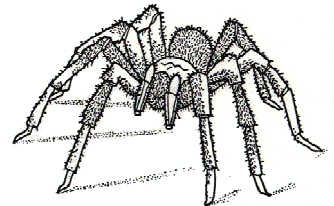
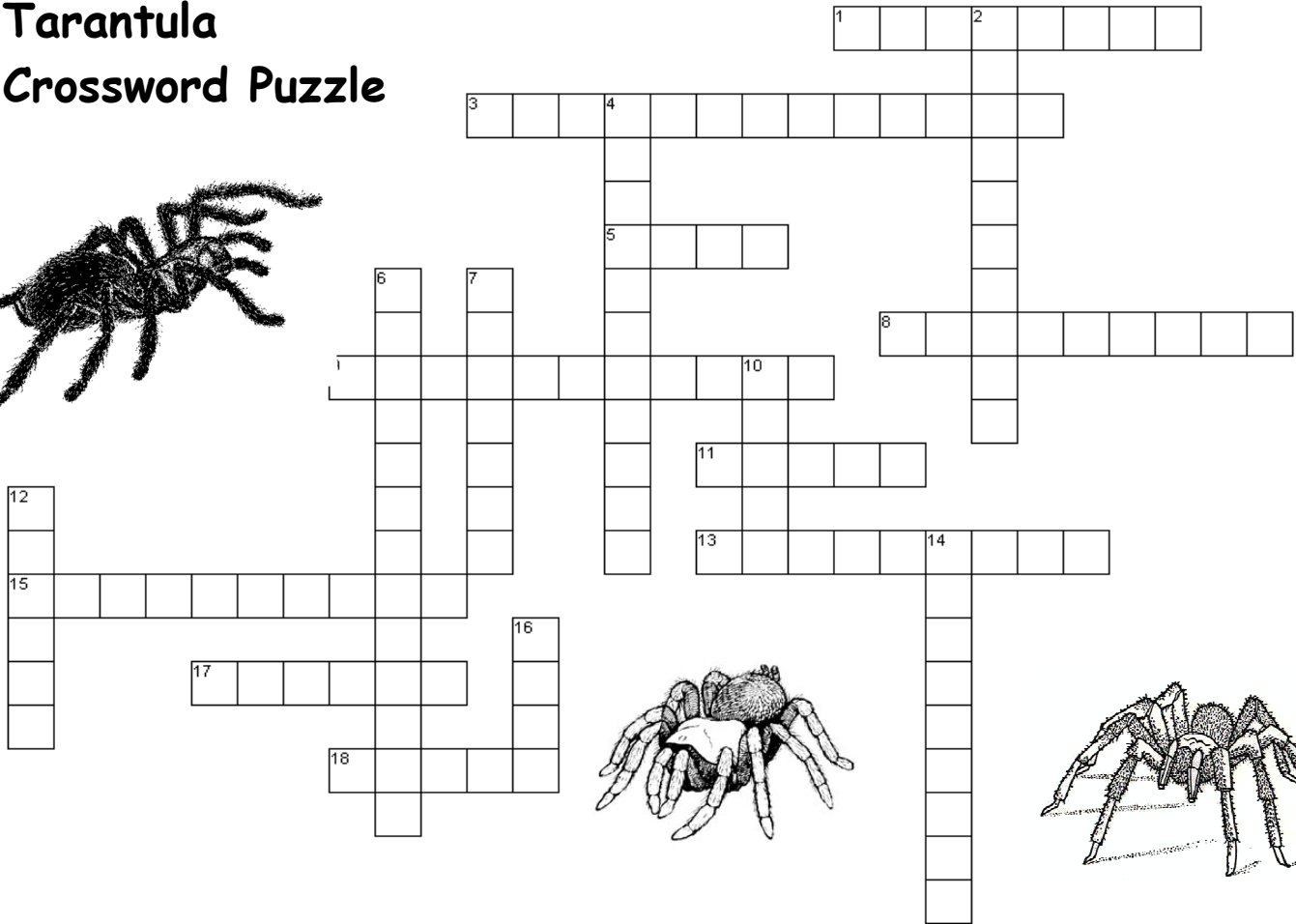
s z t c e s n i l c r a
w g l a d e h e s f g l
d z n n m z g a p x n u
l j a a o s k r i z g t
t p m e f b o e n r w n
s p i d e r l i n g s a
e e a r e c i l e h c r
c d o p o r h t r a m a
a r a c h n i d e s o t
n e m o d b a a t i n w
p e d i p a l p s l e o
z w l b u r r o w k v x

abdomen
arachnid
arthropod
burrow
chelicerae
fangs
glade
hairs

insect
legs
pedipalps
silk
spiderlings
spinnerets
tarantula
venom



Tarantula Crossword Puzzle



abdomen arachnid arthropod burrow cephalothorax chelicerae exoskeleton fangs glade hairs insect invertebrates legs pedipalps silk spiderlings spinnerets tarantula venom

Across

- Spiders, ticks, and scorpions all belong to this group of arthropods.
- Since tarantulas do not have a backbone, they are called _____.
- Tarantulas use some _____ in their burrows but do not spin large webs.
- The largest spider native to Arkansas.
- Baby tarantulas
- For defense, tarantulas rub their abdomens and create a cloud of _____.
- Short appendages on the front of the tarantula that look like legs and are used for digging.
- The spider organs that produce threads of silk.
- A female tarantula may never go far from her _____.
- Tarantulas inject venom with their _____.

Down

- The anterior appendages of a tarantula, also known as "fangs".
- The external supportive covering of a tarantula.
- The body part of arachnids that refers to their combined head and thorax.
- Tarantulas use the stinging hairs on their _____ for defense.
- Dry, open habitats where tarantulas are known to live.
- You can tell a tarantula is not an _____ because it has 8 legs instead of 6.
- A group of invertebrates that includes insects, arachnids, and crustaceans.
- Tarantulas and all spiders have 8 _____.





Tarantula Resources

Many books and websites exist on keeping tarantulas as pets; however, this project is not encouraging anyone to catch spiders and keep them in captivity. The Tarantula Survey is designed to document tarantulas in the wild. The materials listed below provides general natural history information on tarantulas as well as some general information on spiders.

[An Interview with Harry the Tarantula](#) by Leigh Ann Tyson

[The Tarantula](#) by Alice B. McGinty

[Tarantulas](#) by John Browning

[The Tarantulas](#) by William R. Sanford

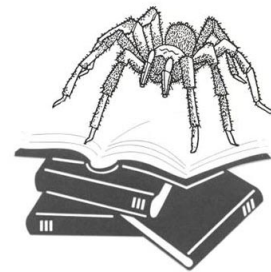
[Tarantula; The Giant Spider](#) by Gladys Conklin

[The Tarantulas \(Wildlife, Habits & Habitat\)](#) by Carl. R. Green

[A Color Guide to Tarantulas of the World](#) by Russ Gurley

[Tarantulas Today: A Complete Authoritative Guide](#) by Andreas Tinter

[The Tarantula Scientist](#) by Sy Montgomery



<http://www.atshq.org/> - American Tarantula Society's website

<http://www.ezclick.net/~pdorris/> - site with complete list of Spiders of Arkansas

http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/Faculty_Staff/Rayor/Spiders/Tarantulas.html - site put together by the Entomology Dept at Cornell University -Tarantulas: Terrible or Terrific

<http://arachnophiliac.com/burrow/spiders.html> - a private site with assorted information including teaching tools—The Tarantula's Burrow

<http://www.birdspiders.com/main.html> - site by Rick West, well-known arachnologist

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/tarantulas/index2.html>—
National Geographic Society tarantula information



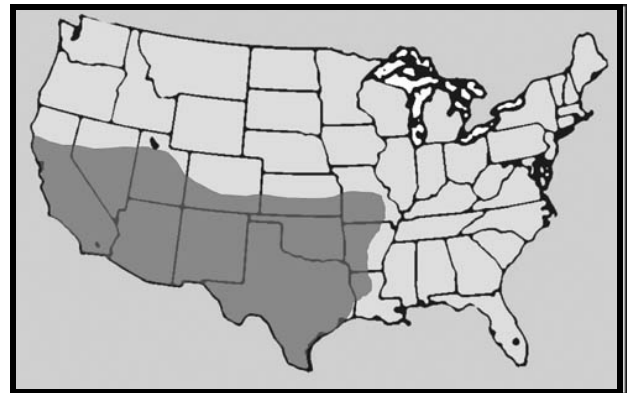
Tarantula taxonomy and distribution



Tarantulas are arthropods, which means that they are classified with other spiders, insects, and crustaceans (shrimp, crabs) in the phylum Arthropoda. Within the phylum Arthropoda are different groups, the class Arachnida is the group that contains all spiders (including tarantulas), as well as things like scorpions and ticks. Within that group, all spiders are organized into the order Araneae and finally all tarantulas are grouped into the family Theraphosidae. Within the family Theraphosidae, all tarantulas that occur in the United States belong to the genus *Aphonopelma*. The taxonomic classification of tarantulas therefore looks like this:

Kingdom Animalia (all animals)
Phylum Arthropoda (spiders, insects, crustaceans)
Class Arachnida (spiders, scorpions, ticks)
Order Araneae (all spiders)
Family Theraphosidae (all tarantulas)
Genus *Aphonopelma*

Worldwide, there are approximately 800 species of tarantulas. Tarantulas occur on most of the major continents with the exception of Antarctica. Species diversity is highest in the warm, tropical climates of Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. There are just over 40 different tarantula species in the United States. This number is apt to change as tarantula taxonomy is in a relative state of disarray and needs further work by trained taxonomists. In the U.S., tarantulas can be found from California, into Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, south into Mexico, and westward into Texas and Oklahoma. Tarantulas in North America reach their eastern limit in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri. No tarantulas occur naturally east of the Mississippi River, though some species have been accidentally introduced into Florida.



Distribution of tarantula species in the United States

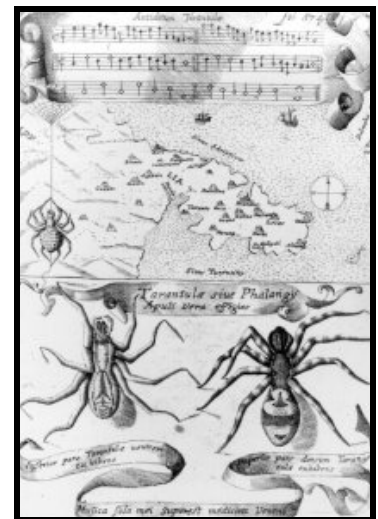


How did Tarantulas get their name?



The word "tarantula" has a storied history and one in which myth is hard to separate from fact. To fully understand how tarantulas got their common name you have to go back over 600 years to the small town of Taranto on the southern coast of Italy. In this region of southern Europe occurs a large spider, the European wolf spider specifically, unrelated to what we now call tarantulas. This spider was named after the town of Taranto and was called a "tarantola" and could often be found living in burrows in agricultural fields. People living in this region thought that the bite of the spider caused a disease called "tarantismo." This affliction was marked by a period of melancholy and then death. It was believed that the only way to avoid death was a frenzied, uncontrollable dance, set to music, called the "tarantella."

Over time the music associated with the dancing became stylized. One of the more well known pieces called "Antidotum Tarantulae", roughly translated as "treatment for spider bite", was even incorporated into the ballet, Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky. Although once simply considered a cure for tarantula bite, some experts now assert that tarantismo was actually a complex socio-religious reaction to the extremely repressive conditions that existed in Europe at the time.

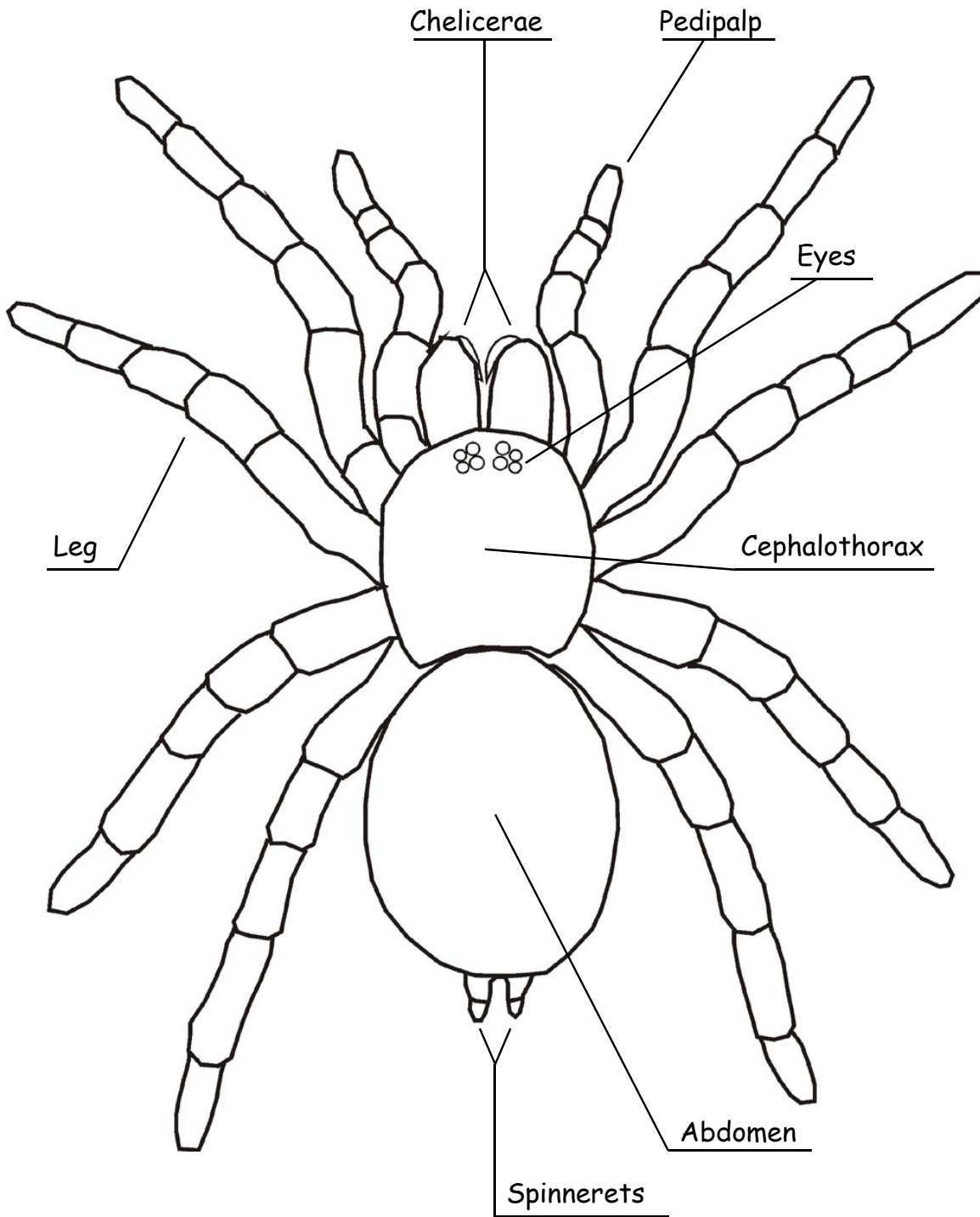


Antidotum Tarantulae (17th Cen-

Regardless of the ultimate origin of tarantismo, the question that still needs to be addressed is how did large, hairy spiders, unrelated to the tarantola of Italy, get to be called tarantulas? Well, the answer to that lies in the exploration and settlement of places, like Mexico and the American southwest, where the spiders we now call tarantulas occur. Explorers and settlers of these regions included a large contingent from southern Spain and Italy. As homesteads and farms were established, settlers likely encountered these very large, hairy spiders. It is thought that they simply called them by the name that was most often applied to the large spiders of their homelands, the tarantola. Today, the word tarantula is synonymous with the big, formidable spiders we are familiar with in our country.



Anatomy of the Texas Brown Tarantula



Solution to Tarantula Wordsearch

S + T C E S N I L + + A
+ G L A D E H E S + + L
+ + N + + + G A P + + U
+ + + A + S + + I + + T
+ + + + F + + + N R + N
S P I D E R L I N G S A
+ E A R E C I L E H C R
+ D O P O R H T R A M A
A R A C H N I D E S O T
N E M O D B A + T I N +
P E D I P A L P S L E +
+ + + B U R R O W K V +

(Over, Down, Direction)

ABDOMEN (7, 10, W)

ARACHNID (1, 9, E)

ARTHROPOD (10, 8, W)

BURROW (4, 12, E)

CHELICERAE (11, 7, W)

FANGS (5, 5, NW)

GLADE (2, 2, E)

HAIRS (7, 2, SE)

INSECT (8, 1, W)

LEGS (9, 1, SW)

PEDIPALPS (1, 11, E)

SILK (10, 9, S)

SPIDERLINGS (1, 6, E)

SPINNERETS (9, 2, S)

TARANTULA (12, 9, N)

VENOM (11, 12, N)

