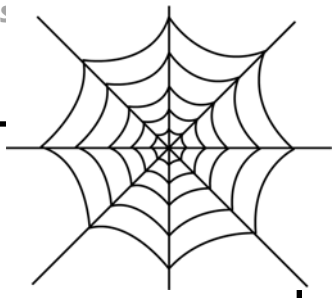
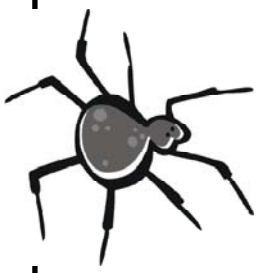
Name _____ **Find the Meaning of New Words**



How Do They Do It?

Spiders begin each web with a single thread. They climb up to a good starting point and let go a length of thread into the wind. When the spider feels that the end of the thread has attached to something, it pulls the silk **taut** and attaches its end of the thread to the starting point. The spider then walks across this thread and releases another, looser, thread below it. It attaches both ends of this thread and then goes out to its center. The spider's weight makes the loose web sag into a V-shape. From the point of this V, the spider lowers itself by a third thread, creating a Y-shape to form the supporting structure of the web. The spider continues to walk along this **initial** structure, adding more threads between the different **anchor** points. Then it creates **radius** threads from the center of the web to the frame threads. None of these threads are sticky. They are there to allow the spider to move around on the web without getting stuck. When all the radius threads are in place, the spider uses more non-sticky silk to create an **auxiliary** spiral, working from the center of the web to its outer edges. Then the spider walks along this extra spiral, eating it as it lays out a sticky spiral in its place. The spider now has a web with non-sticky radius threads, so it can get around, and a sticky spiral to trap its dinner!



DIRECTIONS: Circle the best meaning for each bold-faced word from the passage. Then write the clues from the passage that helped you choose the correct meaning.

1. **Taut** means: A. tight B. loose

CLUES: _____

2. **Initial** means: A. first B. solid

CLUES: _____

3. **Anchor** means: A. heavy B. fastened securely

CLUES: _____

4. **Radius** means: A. a straight line from center to the edge of a circle B. outer

CLUES: _____

5. **Auxiliary** means: A. extra B. strong

CLUES: _____