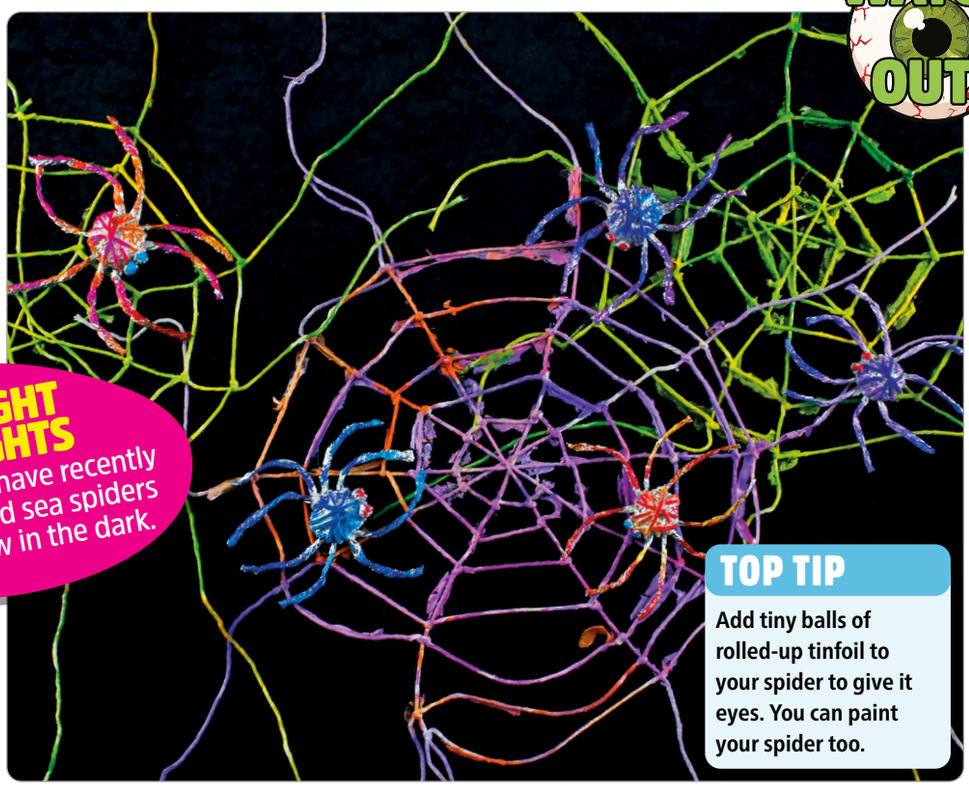
Weave spooky spider webs

They're perfect for hanging in a window or as fun table decorations.

We often associate spiders with Halloween. This is because people used to believe that they were the evil companions of witches. However, these days we know that spiders actually play an important role in nature – plus they help to keep your home free from pests such as flies.

These spider webs are made from string and glue but real webs are actually made from a type of silk. Spiders have structures on their abdomens (the rear part of the body) called spinnerets where the silk emerges. Spiders make their webs for lots of different reasons – to capture their food, to help them get from place to place (this is called "ballooning"), and to impress potential mates with their builds.

We're going to show you how to easily create these creepy webs and make some spooky decorations for Halloween.



NIGHT LIGHTS
Scientists have recently discovered sea spiders that glow in the dark.

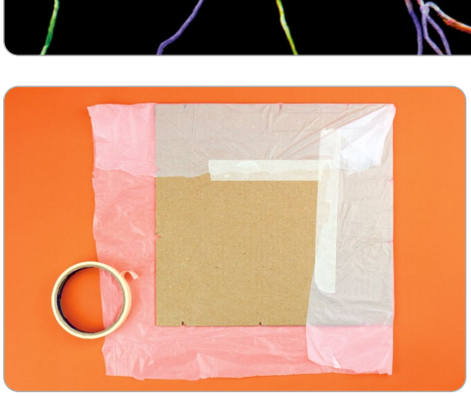
TOP TIP
Add tiny balls of rolled-up tinfoil to your spider to give it eyes. You can paint your spider too.

What you need

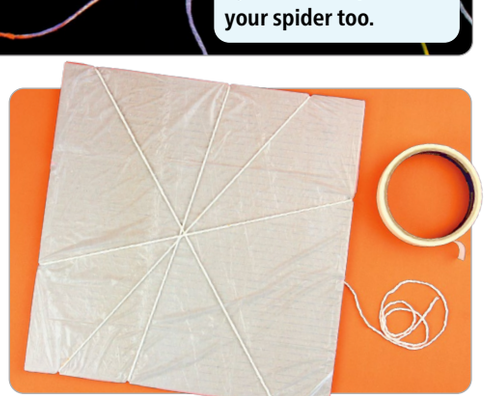
- Thick card
- A ruler
- Scissors
- A bin bag or thin carrier bag
- Sticky tape
- Ball of string
- Brushes
- PVA glue
- Paints
- Foil



1 Cut a 25–30cm square from thick card. Make a few small notches along each edge; these will hold the string in place while you weave the web.



2 Cover it with a bin bag or thin carrier bag. Fold it over the edges with tape on the back. Tape the end of a two-metre length of string to the back too.



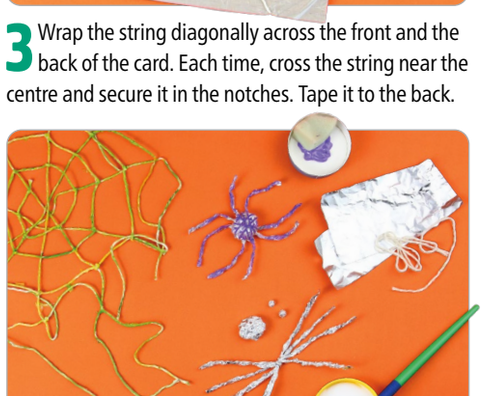
3 Wrap the string diagonally across the front and the back of the card. Each time, cross the string near the centre and secure it in the notches. Tape it to the back.



4 Tie the end of a one-metre length of string near the centre. Spiralling outwards, pass it under and over the strands in a loop or knot where it crosses them.



5 Tape the string to the back of the card. Brush PVA glue along the web strings and leave to dry. Paint over the string or leave it unpainted for a natural look.



6 Cut the threads on the back, then peel off the web. Roll a small ball of foil for the spider's body. Use four foil strips for legs, twist together and glue on.

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