

**Crawly Creatures**

# TARANTULAS

**MARTY GITLIN**





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Meet  
the

# TARANTULA

A man on a Texas hillside rests peacefully. Suddenly, he gets a weird feeling. He opens his eyes wide to see a tarantula crawling toward him. It slowly creeps closer on hairy legs. He screams, jumps up, and runs away.

The man had little to worry about. Tarantulas look scary. But these spiders are actually shy and harmless to humans.





## Big, Scary Spiders

Tarantulas are the largest spiders in the world. There are hundreds of kinds. They often weigh 1 to 3 ounces (28 to 85 grams).

Tarantulas are usually brown or black. They all have powerful jaws and fangs. And the spiders are all very, very hairy.

### COMPARING SIZES



## Hairy Legs

Tarantulas have claws at the ends of their legs. They use them to climb. Hairy legs help them move along many surfaces. The hairs let them feel **vibrations** too. These spiders have eight eyes but a poor sense of sight. Vibrations sensed by their hairs tell them when other animals are near.

Tarantula eyes can only sense movement and light and dark.

