Learning with books by Eric Carle

Miori Shimada

Teachers College, Columbia University

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Shimada, M. (2005). Learning with books by Eric Carle. In K. Bradford-Watts, C. Ikeguchi, & M. Swanson (Eds.) *JALT2004 Conference Proceedings*. Tokyo: JALT. ric Carle is a tremendously popular and prolific author and illustrator, and his books never disappoint readers. Most teachers know and use the modern classic, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. But Carle has written and illustrated a wide library of titles, including *Today is Monday*, *Have you Seen My Cat?*, *The Very Busy Spider*, *The Very Lonely Firefly*, *A House for Hermit Crab*, and many more.

In this workshop, the presenter introduced and demonstrated EFL activities for preschoolers and elementary school children based on many of Eric Carle's books for young learners.

The presenter talked about 42 books of Eric Carle (excluding some out-of-print books, as well as four books of more than 50 pages). These picture books contain colorful illustrations and simple stories with variations on the same question and answer patterns. The stories also include lists of names of animals, plants, food, or family members. The activities demonstrated in this presentation focused on those lists.

Students' artwork was also displayed to the audience. Video clips of lessons based on Carle's books were viewed during the presentation.

The activities introduced in this presentation included drawing, chants, arts and crafts, re-creation of stories, and games. They aimed at improving learners' English skills while, at the same time, enhancing their interest in nature, life, and the world around them. These activities are all included in the following charts or in the DVD clips.

The charts divide the books into 10 categories, each of which consists of two to seven books. The charts are modified and adapted from work by Dr. Kiefer of Ohio State University.

The presenter explained the advantages of using the Eric Carle series and how effective the books have been in getting children interested in English and familiar topics during the presentation and video-viewing..

Watch attached video (click to view)

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Kiefer of Ohio State University who allowed me to modify and apply her charts, and Ms. Aleda Krause, the author of *SuperKids*, who kindly lent me some of Carle's books.

Eric Carle's official website: http://www.eric-carle.com/

Categorization of picture books by Eric Carle

The charts introduced in this paper are all based on this "model" chart below: The left column has six sections, and the right has only one—the activities section. If a Big Book version is available and recommended, that recommendation is included under the right column heading next to the title.

MODEL CHART

Category ("series" or "theme" based)

Title	Recommendation when using a "Big Book"
1. Main character	
2. Other special character(s)	Activities
3. Special word categories	*0ther products (puzzle,
4. Other teachable words	video, etc.) of the same title,
5. Other teachable subjects/	available from toy stores,
expressions	websites, or in the references.
6. Secret(s) of the book	

The "Very" series

The Very Here and	Decementaria detterre andrea	
The Very Hungry	Recommendation when	
Caterpillar	using a "Big Book"	
1. Caterpillar	*Coloring sheet	
2. Moon, sun	*Puzzle	
3. Days of the week, fruit,	*Video	
sweets	*Puppet show	
4. Names of colors, numbers	*Song	
5. Growing process of insects,	Origami	
nutrition, tastes, difference	Drawing	
and similarities of butterflies and moths	Observe a caterpillar's growth	
	Create similar stories by changing food Caterpillar quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix]	
6. Holes, cut page		
(Finger holes in pages that the		
caterpillar goes through)		
The Very Busy Spider		
1. Spider, animals	Classroom reading (Student(s)	
2. Fly, owl	read questions or sing the	
3. Animals, animal sounds	first phrase of "Eency weency	
4. "Want to (verb)",	spider")	
onomatopoeic verbs	Draw a spider's web	
5. World spiders and their	Song "Eency weency spider"	
webs, how spiders spin their	Guessing game of animals by	
webs and catch food	sounds	
6. Raised web	Spider quiz [Appendix]	

Ð	The Very Quiet Cricket		The Very Clumsy Click Beetle	
	 Cricket, insects Cricket's friend (another 	Classroom reading (Student(s) read questions)		Classroom reading (Student(s) read encouraging expressions
.earning for	 Cricket's Iriend (another cricket) Greetings, insects Onomatopoeic verbs World crickets, other similar insects Sound effects The Very Lonely Firefly 	Observe crickets and other similar insects *Video Guessing game of insects by the sounds Cricket quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix]	 Young click beetle, little animals Old click beetle, owl Expressions to encourage somebody Words that rhyme World beetles 	 and "quick, click and flip") Act out action verbs (e.g. crawl, rummage, creep, somersault, etc.) Pantomime the movement of each character Observing beetles Beetle quiz [see Spider quiz in
anguage L	1. Firefly		6. Sound effects	Appendix]
	2. People, a few animals, firefly's friends (other	Observe fireflies Firefly quiz [see Spider quiz in		Create similar stories of other beetles
	fireflies 3. Different lights, shadow, synonym of the verb	Appendix] Create similar stories of similar insects or animals (e.g.	The "Bear" series	
	"light"	lantern fish)	Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Wh	
RA –	 Animal sounds, conversations of people World fireflies, similar insects or animals (e.g. 	Compound word-match (e.g. fire + fly = firefly) Talk about children's errors before becoming successful	 Nine animals Teacher, children Animals, colors 	Group/pair reading or chants Song (suggested: Twinkle, twinkle, little star) *Coloring sheet
NA	lantern fish), compound words	(e.g. falling off a bike, falling down when learning to skate)	4. Animal sounds, teacher, children, boys and girls	Puppet show Origami
2004	6. Light-up page		5. "What do you see?" "I see (somebody) looking at me."6. None	Drawing Create an original book (by changing the order, animals or colors)

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Create an original book (by changing the order, animals or colors)

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Polar Bear, Polar	Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?		Books with heavy texts	
 Ten zoo animals Zoo keeper, chi Animals, animal onomatopoeic veri Stripes, spots "What do you h hear (somebody). ear.", "ing like (occupation None 	ldren ll sounds, bs hear?" "I ing in my	Group/pair reading or chants Song (suggested: Twinkle, twinkle, little star) Make animal masks and imitate the action Origami Guessing game by the sound and action of animals or by the tape-recorded voice Create an original book (by changing the order or the animals) Visit the zoo and interview the staff to discover the features of each animal	 (Other books in this categor "Why Noah Chose the Dov A House for Hermit Crab 1. Hermit crab, underwater species 2. Hermit crab's friend (another hermit crab), shell(s) 3. Shell as a house, underwater species, months 4. Words related to the ocean, shells, animal houses, house components, seasons 5. House materials, other possible materials to decorate 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?		the hermit crab's house,	Crafts of a hermit crab with
1. Ten wild anima2. Dreaming child3. Animals, anima	ls	Group/pair reading or chants Song (suggested: Teddy bear song) Origami	"Would one of you be willing to (verb)?" "I would." 6. None	unique materials Visit an aquarium to observe hermit crabs
action verbs 4. Endangered spe	ecies	Guessing game by the action of animals		
5. "What do you s (somebody)ing features of animal	, by me.",	Create an original book (by changing the order or with other endangered animals)		
6. None		Talk about the regions of endangered species and		

discuss the reasons

Shine	da: Learning with books by E			
ife	The Mountain That Loved A B	Bird	"Easy" and "wordless" boo	oks
forL	 Bird named "Joy", mountain, nature The tallest tree, baby birds Spring, change in the 	Classroom reading (Student(s) read the key phrases) Theater show (combined with	(Another book in this categ My Friend?)	gory—Do You Want to Be Jumbers Shapes, Colors, Words)
arning	mountain, bird's life4. Seasons, river/lake/ocean,parts of a tree (root, twig, etc.)5. Mountains, rocks, growth of	art works and activities) Drawing "beautiful" mountains Nature game/quiz	 1-5 Various words, expressions and subjects can be taught 6. Wordless, split pages 	Matching-games of shapes, colors, numbers, and words
Ŭ	plants, birds' nests, journey of	Hiking	Let's Paint a Rainbow	•
eL	birds, "Isn't there some way you could (verb)?"	Bird-watching	1. Mouse, house, painters 2. Cat	Theater show (combined with art works and activities)
nag	6. None		 Colors, rainbow, numbers Occupation 	Paint a rainbow with different or the same colors
ngu			5. Animal pairs (cat and mouse, dog and cat, ladybug	Talk about rainbow and weather
L			and aphids, etc.) 6. Cut pages	Create new colors by mixing colors
			What's for Lunch?	
2004 NARA			 Monkey, fruit Bananas Fruit Numbers, fruit trees, meals of animals 	Group/pair reading Talk about our meals Draw our meals of a day Observe monkeys and other animals in the zoo to find out
JALT 200			5. World monkeys, animal food, "No, thank you.", "Yes, please."6. Cut pages, holes, movable monkey with a rope	what food they eat Monkey quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix] Create cards of animals and their food and do a matching- game in the class

fe	1,2,3, to The Zoo		Theme: Friendship	
		Narrate a story of this book	Do You Want to Be My Friend	?
age Learning for	 Train, zoo animals, people Mouse Animals, numbers Train, colors, zoo Different kinds of each animal, different size of each animal Wordless 	Create conversation between a mouse and the animals Sing some "train" songs Draw a zoo Counting all the animals, people and the trees Animal quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix] Create similar stories by changing the order or replacing the characters with different animals	 Mouse, ten animals Mouse's friend (another mouse), snake, tree Animals, animals' body parts Animals' tails, whiskers and heads "Do you want to be my friend?", flesh-eating vs plant- eating animals, idioms with the same preposition (ran on, flew on, etc.) 	Classroom reading (Student(s) read the question and answer) Quiz: "Whose tail, whisker or head?" Create an original book (by changing the order, animals or main characters) Extension of the story (What happens afterwards?)
ng		Visit a zoo	6. The book also has a	
	I See A Song		"wordless" version.	My Eriond
2004 NARA — La	 Violinist Many living creatures Nature, universe Anything possible Musical instruments, music, dance, feelings Wordless(from page 2) 	*Video Narrate a story of this book Compare the book with the video Counting things or items (shapes, colors, etc.) appeared in the book/video Create music and dance of this story Discuss some songs applicable for this book	 Where Are You Going? To See 1. Dog, cat, rooster, goat, rabbit 2. Little birds and insects, boy and girl 3. Animal sounds, singing, dancing 4. Animals and insects, friends 5. Different cultures (reading-direction, languages, etc.), "Where are you going?" "To see my friend.", "I like 	Drama performance (in either or both languages) Song Concert of songs of "friendship" Puppet show Guessing game by the sound of animals or by the tape- recorded voice Create an original story
JALT			ing." 6. Bilingual (English and Japanese)	with different characters or languages

The Grouchy Ladybug	Big book	Theme: Family	
 Ladybug, insects, animals of various sizes Whale, ladybug's friend (another ladybug), aphids, leaf Insects, animals, time, numbers, size, strong parts of animals and insects (jaw, beak, horn, etc.) Words that express "size", synonym of "grouchy", adjectives that express "feelings", hour/minute/ second World ladybugs, other big/small animals, food of insects, "Want to (verb)?", "if you insist", "You are not (adjective) enough.", idioms that are similar (e.g. ran on, ran off, flew on flew off) Cut pages, letters (texts) of different sizes, "clock" picture 	Classroom reading (Student(s) read key phrases) Guess the animal (appears on each page) by giving the time Ladybug quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix] Compound word-match (e.g. lady + bug = ladybug) Make our own timetable Create an original book (by changing ladybugs, insects and animals) Extension of the story (How about the next day?)	Does A Kangaroo Have A Mot 1. Animal mothers and their babies 2. None 3. Animals, mother and baby 4. Family members 5. "Does (animal) have (something), too?" "(Animal) has (something).", "just like me and you" 6. Names of animal parents, babies and groups (on the last page)	her, Too? Group/pair reading or chants Song (e.g. "finger family") Animal quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix] Draw animal mother and the babies Create an original book with different animals Write a "father" version of this book Visit a zoo and observe animals' mothers and their babies Study the names of other animals' babies, parents and groups

on each page

y	Mister Seahorse		The Tiny Seed	Big book
5	1. Father seahorse, several underwater species		1. Tiny seed, other seeds, nature, animals, people	
Language Learning to	 Mother seahorse, seahorse babies, eggs Sea creatures, words that express "encouragement" How fathers (of underwater species) fertilize their eggs, how some underwater species protect themselves from the enemies How other animals (on land) fertilize their eggs, "drift gently" (similar expression also appears in the book "Little Could"), "How are you?", "take a good care of" Colorful acetate sheets between pages 	Theater show (combined with art works and activities) Draw "hidden" animals living under the sea or on land Seahorse quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix] Create an original book with different species whose fathers fertilize their eggs Write a "mother" version of this book or of "land" animals Visit an aquarium and observe species whose fathers fertilize eggs	 nature, animals, people 2. New seeds 3. Seeds, the life cycle of plants, seasons, damages to a plant's growth 4. Parts of a plant, necessary things for a plant's growth 5. Other possible damages to a plant's growth, damages to a nimals' eggs or babies 6. None 	Theater show (combined with art works and activities) Write a tiny "egg" version of this book Extension of the story (What will happen to the new seeds?)
	Little Cloud	Big book		
ALT 2004 NAK	 Little cloud, other clouds Rain Clouds, rain, various things Family, weather, various things "Drift slowly" (similar expression also appears in the book "Mister Seahorse"), "up" and "down", "change into (something)", "Come back" None 	Theater show (combined with art works and activities) Draw different shaped clouds Arts and crafts with "cotton" (on a big blue paper) or with clay, etc. Write a similar book of "puddles"	5	

Theme: Self-awareness	Rooster's Off to See the World	
<th biology<="" column="" th=""><th>Recover y control between the trional1. Rooster, cats, frogs, turtles, fish2. Sun, fireflies2. Sun, fireflies4. Numbers, names of female/ male animals, animal sounds, homes and meals of animals5. "To see the world", expressions that show "acceptance/agreement"6. None1. Tortoise and seven animals, sun, moon2. Rain, wind, shell3. Tortoise, weather, words that rhyme4. The enemies of tortoise5. World tortoises, the difference of tortoise and turtle, other animals and "rapid" animals6. None</th></th>	<th>Recover y control between the trional1. Rooster, cats, frogs, turtles, fish2. Sun, fireflies2. Sun, fireflies4. Numbers, names of female/ male animals, animal sounds, homes and meals of animals5. "To see the world", expressions that show "acceptance/agreement"6. None1. Tortoise and seven animals, sun, moon2. Rain, wind, shell3. Tortoise, weather, words that rhyme4. The enemies of tortoise5. World tortoises, the difference of tortoise and turtle, other animals and "rapid" animals6. None</th>	Recover y control between the trional1. Rooster, cats, frogs, turtles, fish2. Sun, fireflies2. Sun, fireflies4. Numbers, names of female/ male animals, animal sounds, homes and meals of animals5. "To see the world", expressions that show "acceptance/agreement"6. None1. Tortoise and seven animals, sun, moon2. Rain, wind, shell3. Tortoise, weather, words that rhyme4. The enemies of tortoise5. World tortoises, the difference of tortoise and turtle, other animals and "rapid" animals6. None

fe	The Greedy Python		Theme: My responsibility	,
NARA — Language Learning for Li		Snake quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix]	Have You Seen My Cat?	I
	 python, ten animals Sun Python, size of animals, words that rhyme Synonym of "greedy" World snakes, other animals that can eat bigger animals None 	Appendix] Puppet show Draw python gulping bigger animals Talk about "selfishness" Create an original book (by changing 10 animals) Extension of the story (What happens to the disappearing python?)	 A boy, different "cats", people around the world, pigeons, squirrel My cat Cats, world, people around the world Features of each cat, 	Group/pair reading or chants Locate the places (on the world map) a boy meets people Draw your (ideal) pets Draw a poster of "missing pet(s)" Talk about the pets and the experience of losing them (Where did you find them?)
	"Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," said the Sloth	Big book	 4. Features of each cat, difference of peoples 5. Animal groups, "Have you seen my (something)?" "This is not my (something)" 6. None 	Cat quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix]
	 Sloth, animals in Amazon rainforest Jaguar Sloth, words that describe "laziness" Synonym of "lazy" World monkeys, other animals that sleep upside 	Classroom reading (Student(s) read key words/phrases) "Slowly" song-phrase when turning the page Sloth quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix] Puppet show Draw animals living upside down Talk about the habits of animals		Talk about your responsibilities Create conversation between a boy and the people he meets Write a similar story of other similar animals
JALT 2004 	animals that sleep upside down, "Why are you so (adjective)?" 6. Groups of animals in Amazon rainforest on the last page	Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of "hurried" life and "slow" life Create an original book (by changing animals and a main character) Extension of the story (What happens afterwards?)		

Pa 1. J	ncakes, Pancakes		Walter the Baker		
	Jack, mother, miller, animals Pancake with jam		1. Walter, Anna, Walter Jr., customers, Duke and Duchess	Dramatize the story and perform on the stage	
3. I kitcinst exp 4. If foo 5. V "W nee eac 6. F	Ingredients of pancakes, chen utensils, "cooking" structions and words/ pressions Ingredients and recipe of other od, words that express "taste" World pancakes, nutrition, Ve need to (verb)" or "We ed (something)", How to get ch ingredient Recipe	Organize a cooking class Talk about typical breakfast (lunch, dinner) around the world Create recipes for typical/new meals Create original stories based on above recipes	 2. Sun, cat, pretzel 3. Baker and bakery, breads, ingredients of bread, verbs such as: beat, pull, push, pound 4. Workers and jobs, words that express "taste", bread and cakes sold in the bakery 5. World bread, names of a "couple" (e.g. Duke and 	 3. Baker and bakery, breads, ingredients of bread, verbs such as: beat, pull, push, pound 4. Workers and jobs, words that express "taste", bread and cakes sold in the bakery 5. World bread, names of a "couple" (e.g. Duke and Duchess king and queen 	Talk about the inventions Talk about the unique names of things and how they were named Create an original book with different things
My	My Apron		prince and princess)	Write a story of another new bread Walter the Baker	
2. A 3. H and 4. V men 5. " 6. A	Myself, aunt, uncle Apron, cap Plaster and plasterer, uncle d aunt, apron and cap Workers and jobs, family embers, job uniforms, meals "Thank you", "helper" Author's letter and the scription of this art work	Matching-game of workers and their jobs Dramatize the story and perform on the stage Talk about the jobs of your uncles and other family members Draw a family tree Draw a picture of yourself when you grow up Arts and crafts of designing your favorite apron Write a similar story of you as a "helper"	6. None new inve	invented	

🔮 Theme: Universe	Papa, Please Get the Moon for	·Me
 Draw Me a Star 1. Artist, sun, Adam & Eve, apple tree, house, animals, plants, clouds, rain, rainbow, moon 2. A star 3. Nature, man and woman (couple), popular animals, flowers, colors, weather cycle 4. Adjectives such as: big, strong, handsome, etc., day and night 5. Life cycle of a human, a story of Adam & Eve, "Draw me (something)", "It was (something)" 6. Author's letter and the directions to draw two types of stars 	 Papa, Please Get the Moon for 1. Monica, Papa, cat 2. Moon 3. Moon, mountain, ladder, "up" and "down" 4. Different moons (full, half and crescent), music, dance 5. How the moon changes its shape, "Please get (something) for me.", "er ander and er", "grew and grew and grew" 6. Open-up pages Why Noah Chose the Dove 1. Noah, people, animals, the ark 2. Dove 3. Animals, God, features/ uniqueness of animals, 4. Animal sounds, comparative/superlative forms, onomatopoeic verbs 5. God, the symbols of "peace", "I am as (adjective) as", "I amer than", "I am theest." 6. None 	Me Dramatize the story and perform on the stage Theater show (combined with art works and activities) *Video Draw different moons Keep a daily record of moon shapes Talk about the lunar calendar Write another story of Dad catching the moon and "Mom" catching the moon Role-play Puppet show Draw a picture or make a craft work of Noah's ark Talk about your personalities you can be proud of Talk about the characters of each animal Talk about the dove (Why it is chosen to be a symbol of peace in your opinion) Create an original book (by changing animals and even a "dove")

The "unique" books		Hello, Red Fox	
From Head to Toe1. Children, animals2. Parrot3. Body parts, animals and their movements4. Acrobatic movements5. "I am a (something).", "Can you do it?" "I can do it."6. NoneToday is Monday	Big book Song "Head and Shoulders" Move body parts while reading Show the action and ask, "Can you do this?" The rest will answer "Yes, I can." and imitate the action Talk about other movements animals make Make these movements to create another "exercise" book Big book	 Little frog, Mama frog, little frog's friends (animals and a flower) Heart, Goethe's color wheel Colors, animals, birthday Complementary colors, spots and stripes Verbs that express facial colors, "Welcome to (place/ event).", "Thank you for inviting me.", "This is (something).", "This is not (something)." 	Role-play Draw similar pictures to create an original book (by changing characters and their colors) and discover th complementary colors.
Today is Monday1. Animals, children2. Parrot3. Days of the week, animals, meals, "hungry"	Classroom reading and singing	6. Blank pages (with a 'dot' in the middle) on the right side of the book The Secret Birthday Message	Read the letter with the clas
 4. Utensils, favorite food 5. Meals of animals, utensils for different meals, meals of the world, food of animals' shapes (e.g. string beans for a porcupine, spaghetti for a snake, etc.), "Today is (Monday).", "Come and eat it up." 6. Different languages to express "enjoy your meal" (on the first page), sing-along cassette 	"Days of a week" songs Make a mini-book (by using a A4 paper) of your meals for a week Sing your mini-book with the classmates Create an original book (by changing animals and their meals) and sing the new story	 Tim, moon, star, rock, cave, bats, house Dog Shapes, prepositions, birthday, gift, inside the house Different message, imperative forms Surprise parties, "When is your birthday?" "It's (date)." Cut pages, holes, map 	Create a "shape flap" card b using the shapes Write a birthday card to someone special Talk about birthday presents (What do you want for your birthday/Christmas?) Create an original book (by changing things/shapes and places) Write a story about a "pupp

Ð	Watch Out! A Giant!		Dream snow	
uage Learning for Lif	 Giant, two children, mother, father, dog, animals, strange creatures Sun Inside/outside the house, shapes, things you can go through (e.g. tunnel, door, box, etc.) 	Role-play Theater show (combined with art works and activities) Create similar stories of other shapes, things and places Write a story of a different "Giant" Write a story of the "next day" Talk about your friends and things you play with them	 Dream snow 1. Farmer, five animals, tree, house 2. Snow 3. Farm and farmer, farm animals, snow-flakes, blanket, numbers (one to five), Santa's clothes, Christmas, Christmas tree 4. Numbers, snow, Christmas, greetings, Santa Clause, Christmas presents 5. World Christmas and greetings, Important events around the world, events to celebrate "God" 	Puppet show Arts and crafts of a decorated Christmas tree Origami of Santa Clause Talk about the dreams Talk about the presents a farmer gave to his animal companions Extension of the story (What happens on the Christmas Day?)
	 4. Greetings, imperative forms, family members 5. "Look at (something)!", "What a (something)!", "Help!", "Hurry!", "Quick!" 6. Double-sided lift-the-flaps, holes, words in the balloons 			
an	The Honeybee and the Robber		6. Sound effects, acetate sheets between pages	
ARA — L	 Honeybee, flower, bird, fish, frog, butterfly, other bees Sun, bear, owl, moon Bees and beehive, the life of honeybees How bees protect themselves from the enemies World bees, world honey, "much too quick", "catch", "hungry", "Gr-r-rrl", "Ouch!" Pop-up pages, movable parts, heavy texts about bees and the author (on the last page) 	Read the story while each student takes a turn to move each page Arts and crafts of beehive Bee quiz [see Spider quiz in Appendix] Talk about the enemies of bees Write another story of bees and another enemy	· · ·	Carle. Westminster, CA:

- Appendix: Spider quiz (Sample questions)1) How many legs does a spider have?
- 2) How many eyes does a spider have?
- 3) How does a spider catch its food?
- 4) Where do spiders live?
- 5) What shapes of spider webs are there?
- 6) What's the most poisonous spider in the world?
- 7) Where does the most poisonous spider live?
- 8) What's the biggest spider in the world?
- 9) Where does the biggest spider live?
- 10) How many spiders are there around the world?
- 11) How long do spiders live?

2004 NARA

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- 12) How do spiders fertilize their eggs?
- 13) How many spider eggs hatch?
 - 14) How do spiders protect their eggs?
 - 15) What kinds of insects/animals are the enemies of spiders?