

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Read and answer questions about the online *Science News* article "[News stories have caught spiders in a web of misinformation](#)," which describes new research looking at how spiders are portrayed by the media. A version of the article, "News stories give spiders a bum rap" appears in the September 24, 2022 issue of *Science News*.

1. In your own words, summarize the main finding presented in the article.
2. About how many species of spider are there in the world?
3. How many spiders can bite people? Give two examples.
4. How can news stories about spiders be unfair to the creatures?
5. How many news stories did the researchers analyze, and where did the news stories come from?
6. Give an example of an error that was found in the news stories.
7. How many of the news stories were sensationalized? Based on the article, what do you think the term "sensationalized" means?
8. How did including spider experts in the news stories affect the level of sensationalism? What about other types of experts, like doctors?
9. What effects might unfairly negative news stories have on people and spiders?

10. How might news stories that are more accurate affect people and spiders?