



## ARE SPIDERS INTELLIGENT? STUDIES SAY YES!

Have you ever considered the intelligence of the eight eyed, eight legged intruder in your house? Spiders, specifically jumping spiders have been noted to have a greater intelligence than what is usually thought of for their species. They have the ability to think, and plan their actions based on what they observe. They also have a working memory which is a feature that is normally witnessed in larger animals.

It is hard to imagine anything with a brain the size of a poppy seed as "intelligent" but jumping spiders were given a lab test that involved finding their way to a delicious food source or a pile of leaves. The spiders were set atop a tower surrounded by moats where they could see two boxes, one with

food, the other with the leaves. Once the spiders climbed down the tower the boxes were emptied so the visual motivation and reminder was gone.

Surprisingly the spiders did incredibly well, and the overwhelming majority were able to find the food despite no longer being able to see it. Those who took the wrong path looked confused as if they had not expected the outcome they got, suggesting they had planned for a different outcome. This at the very least leads to the idea that jumping spiders possess a more complex thinking ability than we thought they had. Consider letting them outside so they can use their intelligence to hunt pesky mosquitos and other pests.

## OTHER WAYS SPIDERS ARE SMART

OTHER STUDIES HAVE ALSO SHOWN SUPRISING RESULTS REGARDING SPIDER INTELLIGENCE.

Jumping spiders have a few other tricks up their sleeves. A couple of other studies have also discovered that not only can spiders differentiate between biological and non biological movement, but they can even see the moon!

The ability to distinguish between living and non living movement is quite common in vertebrates so it is astonishing to discover a non-vertebrae capable of doing so. It boggles the mind and makes it hard not to imagine what else these complex creatures are capable of.

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Spider Intelligence

