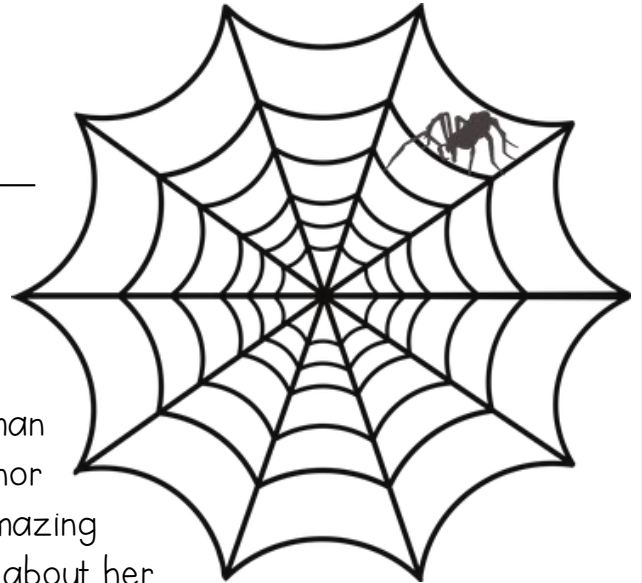


# The Story of Arachne

Greek Myth

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the information below and answer the questions.



A long time ago there lived a young woman named Arachne. Arachne was neither beautiful nor rich, but she was skilled at weaving the most amazing cloth in all the land. Everyone in her village raved about her talent and soon Arachne's work became famous. Unfortunately, as her fame grew, so did her pride.

"I am the most skilled weaver there ever was", she would boast. "Not even the goddess Minerva could make anything as pretty as my cloth!" Minerva wove cloth for all the gods and she was proud too, thinking that no human's work could compete with hers. Eventually, Minerva heard what Arachne said, and she became very angry.

Minerva decided to search the countryside until she found Arachne's home. When she got there, she challenged Arachne to a weaving contest. "We will weave a length of cloth and see who is able to create the finest piece of work."

Arachne agreed. Then she set up two looms so that she and Minerva could start weaving. Minerva wove a rainbow cloth that sparkled in the sunlight. It was so light and airy that it looked like the wings of a butterfly. Arachne's cloth was a golden color and sparkled like rare jewels. The villagers admired both cloths but everyone agreed that Arachne's cloth was the winner.

Minerva was furious! She took a small bottle of magic water and sprinkled it on Arachne. Immediately, Arachne grew smaller and smaller until she could almost not be seen. Then, her arms and legs were covered in brown hair. She had become a tiny brown spider. Arachne would never boast again and she spent the rest of her life weaving fine webs.