

# Pumpkin Spider (*Araneus trifolium*)

## Crossword Puzzle Information

### CLASSIFICATION



Photo by: Eddie Dunbar

*Araneus trifolium* is a **spider**. It builds an orb-**web** and is classified in a group of spiders called **orb-web** spiders..

### IDENTIFICATION

**Color** is a characteristic that may help to identify a spider. *A. trifolium* is **orange** (though it may show up in a green or purplish form).

Its large, bulbous abdomen reminds some of a **pumpkin**.



Photo by: Eddie Dunbar

**Size** is an important way of distinguishing one spider from another. *A. trifolium* is large when compared to other spiders. Female body **length** is 9 - 20 mm; males are 4.5 to 8 mm. *A. trifolium* is **large**, compared to other spiders.

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### BIOLOGY



Photo by: Eddie Dunbar

Pumpkin Spider eggs are laid in an **egg-sac**. The **abdomen** also contains the stomach or crop. In the fall the abdomen and the entire spider grows quickly. The high **vegetation** the spider prefers produces an abundance of insect food; and in the fall there is a **growth** spurt when food is most plentiful. This sudden increase in size may be cause for the spider's "sudden" **appearance**. In fact, the spiders have been present all-year, but were much smaller and simply less noticeable. The spider tends to show up around **Halloween** - and that is how it got its common name "Pumpkin Spider".

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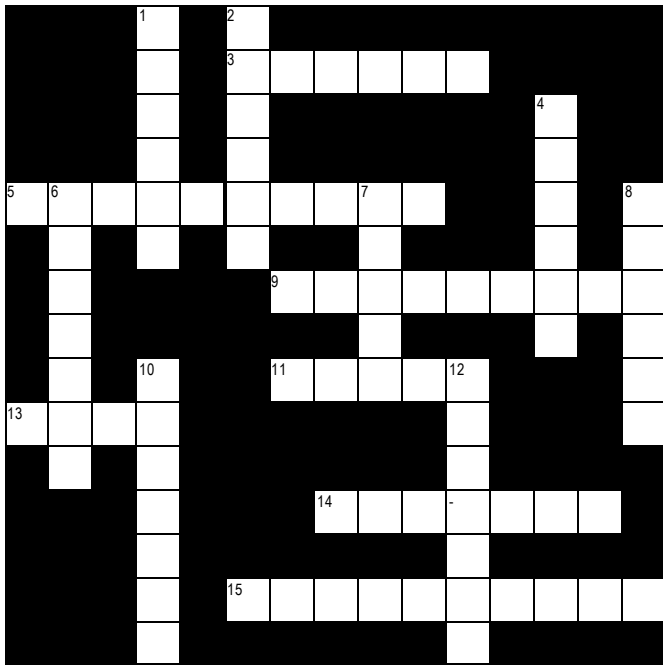


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## Crossword Puzzle Information



### Down

- 1 Type of animal that *Araneus trifolium* is.
- 2 Color of *A. trifolium* (spelled upside down!)
- 4 *A. trifolium* is a type of orb- \_\_\_\_ spider.
- 6 The abdomen of *A. trifolium* is similar to a \_\_\_\_.
- 7 A characteristic that may help to identify a spider.
- 8 Measuring a spider's \_\_\_\_ also helps in its identification.
- 10 The part of a spider that contains its stomach (spelled upside down!).
- 12 Where *A. trifolium* lays its eggs.

### Across

- 3 You might notice *A. trifolium* more in the fall because it has a \_\_\_\_ spurt.
- 5 A sudden increase in size may causes this spiders's "sudden" \_\_\_\_.
- 9 What popular children's holiday does *A. trifolium* tend to show up around?
- 11 What word describes the size of *A. trifolium* when it is compared to other spiders.
- 13 \_\_\_\_ is one important way of telling one spider from another.
- 14 A group of spiders that makes webs similar to *A. trifolium*'s.
- 15 *A. trifolium* likes to live around high \_\_\_\_.

## LAKE MERRITT

AND GREATER OAKLAND INSECTS

An eBook by Eddie Dunbar [v20]

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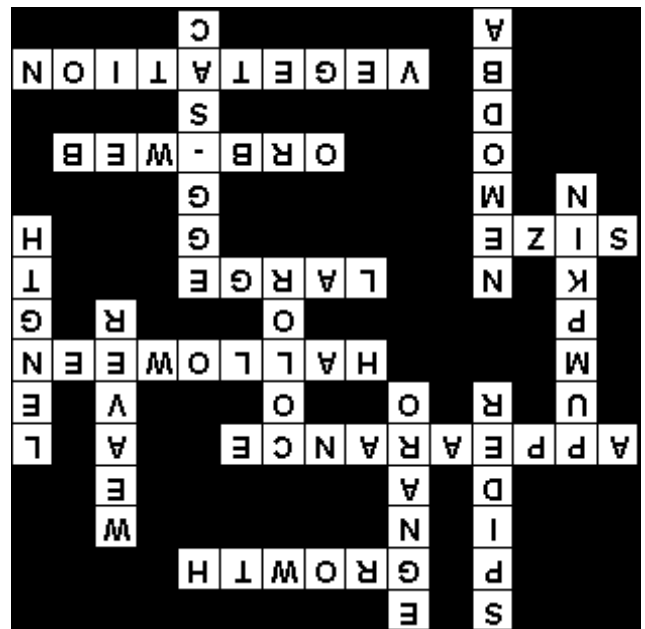




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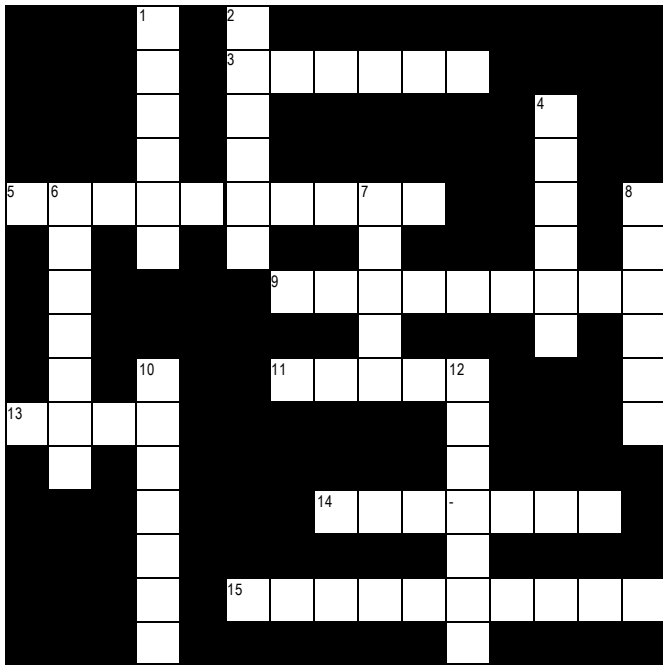
## Solution



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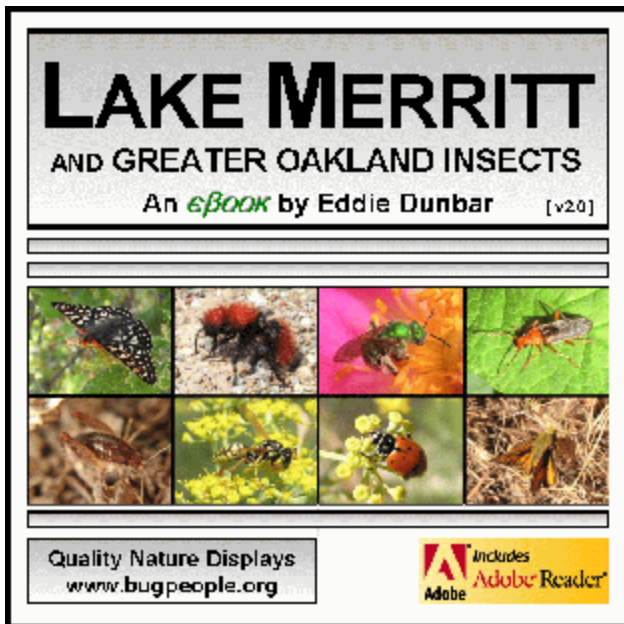
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## Grade / Comments



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# Pumpkin Spider Crossword Puzzle Curriculum Matrix

	CONCEPT	PROCESS / PERFORMANCE
K	Living things can be described and distinguished from each other.	Students will observe, compare, and describe animals.
1	Living things have basic needs that must be met in order to sustain life.	Students begin to observe a variety of ways that living things have their needs met.
2	Life cycles include birth, growth, reproduction, and death.	Students observe, describe, and record changes in an organism's development.
3	Living things have systems to sustain life such as the skeletal, circulatory, and respiratory systems.	Students will understand that an animal has systems that sustain life.
4	The behavior of living things is related to their environment.	Students will observe, record, and describe interactions of living things with other living things.
5	Living things depend on their environment.	Students will observe and describe the habitats of living organisms.