



WHAT YOU NEED:

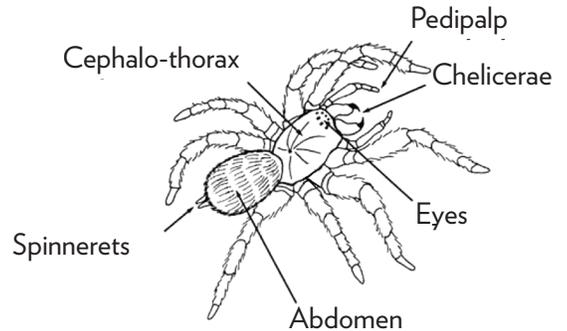
1. dirt in a plastic container
2. white glue
3. a stirrer for the mud ball mixture
4. file folders or cardboard to work on
5. pipe cleaners, twist ties or vegetable wrap wires
6. felt tip pens if you are coloring your twist ties or veggie wrap wires
7. a place to have fun and make a mess

Mud Ball Tarantulas

1. Gather dirt from your neighborhood park or your own yard into a plastic container. For each spider you will need about two golf balls worth of dirt.

2. Add a generous amount of white glue, about one golf ball size. Next add small amounts of water until you can stir your mixture to the consistency of stiff mashed potatoes.

3. Work on a piece of cardboard or a file folder. It can be messy and crumbly. It all depends on your dirt.



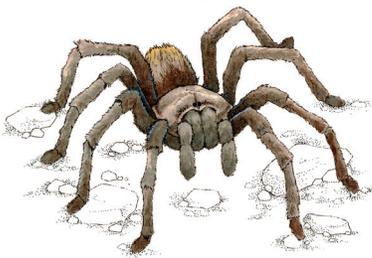
4. For each tarantula, make two mud balls, one slightly bigger than the other.

5. Put the balls together and add 2 short pipe cleaners for pedipalps. Pedipalps are sensory feelers that often get mistaken for legs. Curve them a bit and add them to the top of the smaller mud ball. The smaller mud ball is the tarantula's cephalothorax. "Ceph" means head in Latin. So a cephalothorax is a head and a thorax put together.

6. Bend your 8 legs into the shape you want. Arrange them to the side of the cephalothorax where they will attach.



7. Poke the wire of the legs into the mud ball. It may crumble a bit, like mine did. I just pushed everything back together.



You have made an original Mud Ball Tarantula! Congratulations! Happy Bug Month!

