

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
BROOKE BESSESEN

ARIZONA HIGHWAYS  
BOOKS



# look who lives in the desert!

A tarantula doesn't make a hanging web like some other spiders. Instead, it lines the floor of its burrow all the way out the entrance. When an insect, lizard, or other small animal steps on the silk "carpet," the silk transmits vibrations to the spider, which rushes out to catch and eat its prey.

Female tarantulas live 20 to 30 years. The male roams over long distances looking for mates.

Spiders have two main body parts, the front section called cephalothorax, meaning "head/body," and the bulbous back section called the abdomen. They also have retractable claws, like cats, two on each foot.

Tarantulas usually don't like people, but you should never handle them (for both you and the spider's sake). Human's reaction to tarantula venom is usually mild (similar to that of a bee sting).

A tarantula uses its back legs to flick hair off its abdomen when a potential predator gets too close. These tiny hairs irritate the intruder's eyes and sin.

FASCINATING  
FACTS



A tarantula has a soft tiptoeing prance, like a brown ballerina in an eight-legged dance.

She lays a silk carpet on her burrow floor, so she'll know if a visitor comes to the door to join her for dinner — a feast to be sure!



Skillfully blending illustrations, humor and rhyme with fascinating facts and photographs, *Look Who Lives in the Desert!* delivers a delightful crew of desert animals.

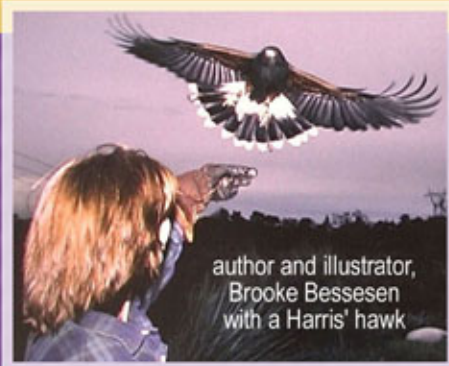
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ARIZONA HIGHWAYS

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Bouncing and Pouncing, Hiding and Gliding, Sleeping and Creeping