

# Learn about Arkansas Tarantulas!

The largest spider in Arkansas is a tarantula. Arkansas is the farthest eastern spot in North America where native tarantulas can be found. The body and legs are dark chocolate brown with reddish hairs and females average two inches in length with males at about one and a half inches. Their species is called *Aphonopelma hentzi*. Common names are the Texas brown tarantula and it is also sometimes called the Arkansas Chocolate Tarantula!

They like to live in more dry and rocky areas with plenty of spots to burrow into the ground to make their home.

They are most often seen when males begin to look for females in the early fall. To see a tarantula in the wild is a great experience and should be treated with the upmost respect as these are important little predators for our ecosystem.



Want to Learn more? Check out these links and activities!

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission:

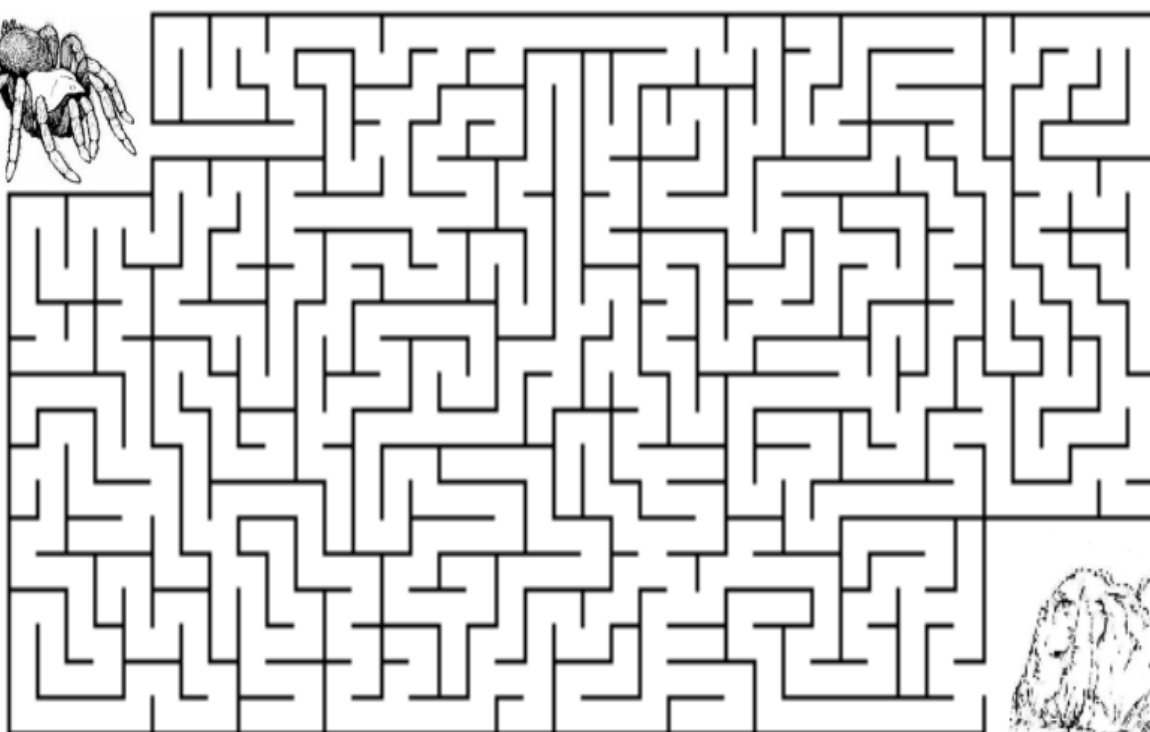
<http://www.naturalheritage.com/Default.aspx?SiteSearchID=3806&ID=/search-results>

Tarantula facts for kids:

<https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/tarantula>

Male tarantulas have to go out searching for the female because the female likes to stay near their burrow most of their life. Males will tap the edge of her web spread out on the ground in front of her burrow to announce they have arrived.

## TARANTULA MAZE



Help the young male tarantula in the upper left corner find his way to the female outside her burrow in the lower right corner