

Litamatics**Spider Legs****1****Materials**

- Number cubes or dice (1 per small group)
- Pencils
- Litamatics Sheet 1

Anansi the Spider
by Gerald McDermott

Book Connection

Quick Start Steps**Get Ready**

- Duplicate Litamatics Sheet.

Get Set

- Show students the book *Anansi the Spider*. Look at the illustrations. Ask students, "How many legs does a spider have?"
- Tell students they will play a number game today with number cubes (dice) in which rolling an eight will help them build pictures of spiders.

Go

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Distribute the Litamatics Sheet.
- Explain that the pictures on the sheet represent legless spider bodies and feet.
- Students will take turns rolling the number cubes or dice. Everyone will get five turns.
- After rolling, they will draw legs on one of the spider bodies to represent the number they have rolled. A leg connects a body with a foot. Once they get to eight, they go on to the next spider, even if this means splitting the number they rolled across two spider bodies.
- Before beginning, ask students to make two the predictions on the top of the Litamatics Sheet: *I think it will take ___ rolls to make one spider and I think I will have made ___ spiders at the end of five turns.*
- Invite students to play the game.
- When groups have finished, ask students, "How many of you made one spider? How many made two spiders? How many made three spiders? and How many of you made four spiders?"
- Record student responses on the board using a simple graph or line plot.
- Introduce vocabulary such as unlikely, likely, possible, and impossible as you discuss the results.
- Similarly, ask students how many rolls it took them to make one spider.
- Invite students to make new predictions on a clean sheet and play again.