PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS FOR
SCIENTISTS IN ACTION: AMAZING ARACHNIDS

1. **Have your students watch this video featuring Dr. Paula Cushing and her work with camel spiders and other arachnids:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z6Q-dkEep4&feature=youtu.be (7 minutes).
   - **You can learn more about Dr. Cushing and her work at her webpage:** https://science.dmns.org/museum-scientists/paula-cushing/

2. **Have your students work in small groups to develop questions for Dr. Paula Cushing.** Here are some tips for developing questions that encourage critical thinking:
   - Explore your reaction to the video and the article. What surprised you? What new questions arose? What are you still wondering about?
   - Scientists who study arachnids (arachnologists) use many different methods to collect and examine these animals in the field and in the lab. Try to think of questions about the methods and tools arachnologists use.
   - Think about a time when you saw a spider, scorpion or other arachnid in your home, at your school, or somewhere else. How did that animal look? What was it doing? Think of questions about your experience.
   - Avoid questions that can be answered with yes or no.
   - Avoid questions that were answered in the video.

IF YOU WANT TO DIG DEEPER...

1. **Learn more about camel spiders:** https://thebugchicks.com/education/solifuge-arachnids-camel-spiders/

2. **Check out more resources about amazing arachnids of all kinds, including answers to common questions about spiders:** https://science.dmns.org/colorado-spider-survey/

3. **Explore resources about other species of arthropods, the group that includes arachnids as well as insects, crustaceans, and more.** https://thebugchicks.com/

4. **Have you seen a spider recently? Deduce what species you might have seen with this identification tool:** https://science.dmns.org/colorado-spider-survey/spider-id/.

5. **Share your observations of arthropods in your home at** https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/never-home-alone-the-wild-life-of-homes.

6. **Haven't seen a spider recently?** Get outside and see if you can spy one!