If you can’t have a dog or a cat as a pet, how would you like to have a pet spider? Children in South America often keep a tarantula as a pet. They tie a string around one leg so they can take it for a walk.

The South American tarantula is the world’s largest spider. Some of them grow as large as ten inches across. They are large enough to eat birds. The largest ones even attack chickens and snakes. The tarantula is an ugly spider with long, hairy legs. Because it is such an ugly creature, the tarantula has a bad reputation, but it is not really as bad as it looks. The bite of a tarantula is very painful, but it would probably not kill you.

In Italy, a long time ago, people believed that a tarantula bite would kill them unless they danced the poison out of their bodies. So when someone was bitten, he began to dance frantically. Later they named a very lively dance the tarantella, after the way that people had danced out the poison.

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Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
   a. Some children have pet tarantulas.
   b. Tarantulas live in South America and Italy.
   c. Tarantulas are large but do not kill humans.

2. What do a tarantula's legs look like?
   a. They are short and fat.
   b. They are long and hairy.
   c. They are ten inches long.

3. What does tie mean in this story?
   a. equal parts
   b. hook together
   c. a neck tie

4. Why did people dance after being bitten by a tarantula?
   a. The bite hurt very much.
   b. They did not want to die.
   c. They liked to dance.

5. Why do some children like tarantulas for pets?

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Number Correct: _______

Write a Retell of "The Tarantula"

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