51M channel views
80% from outside US

2,000 student entries
80 different countries
2,000 student entries  60 regional finalists  6 regional winners  2 global winners
Smithsonian Spidernaut Has Died

December 3, 2012

It is with sadness that the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History announces the death of Nefertiti, the “Spidernaut.” “Neffi” was introduced to the public Thursday, Nov. 29, after traveling in space on a 100-day, 42-million-mile expedition en route to and aboard the International Space Station. She was there to take part in a student-initiated experiment on microgravity.

This morning, before museum hours, a member of the Insect Zoo staff discovered Neffi had died of natural causes. Neffi lived for 10 months. The lifespan of the species, *Phidippus johnsoni*, can typically reach up to 1 year.

The loss of this special animal that inspired so many imaginations will be felt throughout the museum community. The body of Neffi will be added to the museum’s collection of specimens where she will continue to contribute to the understanding of spiders.

# # #
1. focus on one real person

2. ideas come from everywhere.

3. make it matter.
Thank you.