



Teacher Created Resources®

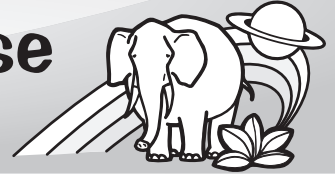
READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

FOR SCIENCE



GRADE 6

Getting Stung on Purpose



These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

* anemone

* poisonous

* invertebrate

* paralyze

* tentacles

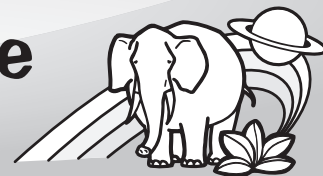
* immunity

* nematocysts

* predator

**Before or after reading the story, write one sentence
that contains at least one new word.**

Getting Stung on Purpose



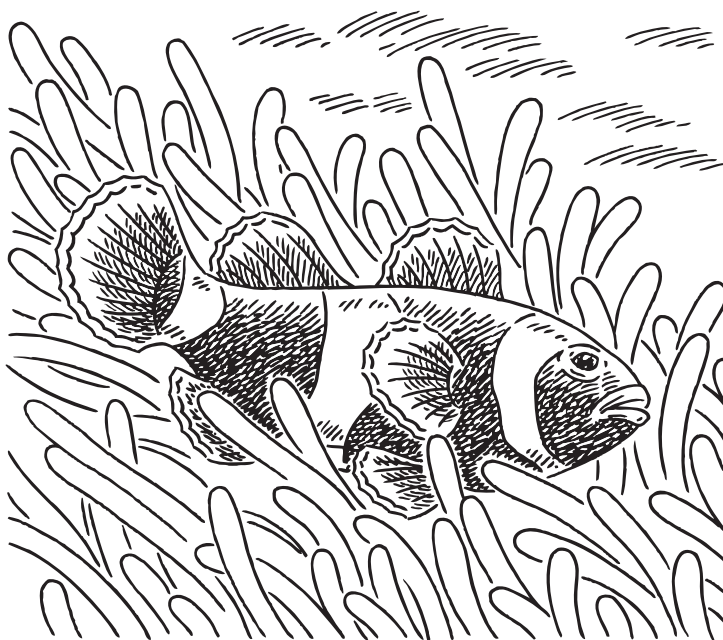
A sea anemone may look like a flower, but it is an animal. It is an invertebrate. An invertebrate is an animal without a backbone. People mistake sea anemones for flowers because of the way the creature anchors itself to the ocean floor and its colorful tentacles. A sea anemone's tentacles are long, slender parts. They grow around the anemone's mouth. They wave back and forth in the water.

A sea anemone's tentacles may look pretty, but they are deadly to most fish. This is because the tentacles contain nematocysts. Nematocysts are stinging cells. If a fish swims around an anemone's tentacles, it will get stung. The poisonous stings will paralyze or kill the fish. When something is paralyzed, it cannot move. The paralyzed or dead fish will then become the anemone's meal. The anemone will use its tentacles to carry its meal to its mouth.

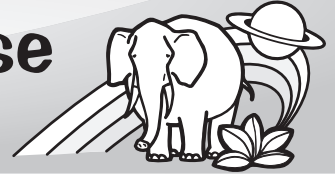
The clown fish uses the sea anemone for safety. The fish hides among its tentacles. Why doesn't the clown fish die from the anemone's poisonous stings? The clown fish does not die because it gets stung on purpose! First, the clown fish swims around the anemone's tentacles. It does not touch them. Then, it begins to touch them every so slightly.

As the clown fish carefully darts in and out of the tentacles, it slowly builds up immunity to the anemone's stings. The fish becomes protected from the anemone's poisons. A clown fish's immunity does not last forever. If a clown fish leaves its anemone for more than one hour, it will no longer be immune. It will have to be stung all over again to build up its immunity.

What happens if a fish swims to another anemone? The immunity to one anemone does not cross over to another anemone. The fish will have to be stung again! It will have to develop immunity to the new anemone's poison. When the immune fish is safe swimming in the anemone's tentacles, it is also safe from its predators! The anemone's poisonous tentacles will kill predators that would ordinarily eat the clown fish!



Getting Stung on Purpose



After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. How long can a clown fish stay away from its anemone before losing its immunity?
 - (a) 15 minutes
 - (b) 30 minutes
 - (c) 45 minutes
 - (d) 60 minutes
2. Which animal is an invertebrate?
 - (a) a slug
 - (b) a mouse
 - (c) a whale
 - (d) a person
3. This story is mainly about
 - (a) immunity from sea anemones.
 - (b) sea anemones and predators.
 - (c) clown fish and sea anemones.
 - (d) a sea anemone's poisonous tentacles.
4. Why might it be good for a sea anemone to have a clown fish swimming among its tentacles?
 - (a) The sea anemone can paralyze and eat the clown fish.
 - (b) The clown fish can sting the sea anemone's predators.
 - (c) The clown fish is protected by the immunity it builds up.
 - (d) The predators that come to eat the clown fish are stung and eaten by the anemone.
5. Think about how the word *immune* relates to *protected*. Which words relate in the same way?

immune : protected

 - (a) left : stay
 - (b) alive : killed
 - (c) wrong : mistaken
 - (d) move : paralyzed

Disease Detectives



These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

* symptoms

* investigate

* notified

* source

* disease

* exhibiting

* epidemiologist

* toxins

**Before or after reading the story, write one sentence
that contains at least one new word.**

Disease Detectives

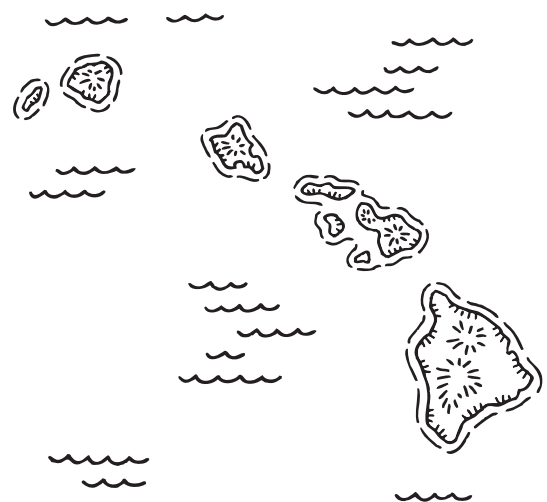


A group of people in Hawaii had gotten sick. All the people had the same symptoms, or signs, of the same illness. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) was notified, or informed. The CDC is a government organization. It was founded in 1946. Its mission is to examine and fight disease throughout the world. When the CDC was notified, it sent epidemiologists to investigate.

An epidemiologist is a “disease detective.” Epidemiologists track diseases. They investigate disease outbreaks. First, they try to find out a disease’s source, or where it came from. Then they try and find ways to stop the disease from spreading. The epidemiologists from the CDC questioned the people in Hawaii exhibiting, or showing, the same symptoms.

The epidemiologists found that everyone had attended the same picnic. They had eaten the same dish. The dish was made with boiled seaweed. Further questions showed that people who attended the picnic and did not exhibit symptoms had not eaten the dish. The epidemiologists had tracked the disease outbreak to the dish, but the investigation was far from over.

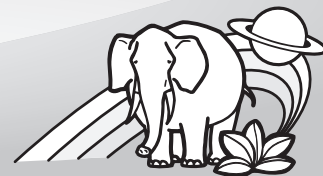
The seaweed dish was a traditional Hawaiian dish. It had been made and eaten for years and years. Why was it making people ill now? To find out, the epidemiologists took the dish remains. They tested the leftovers. They found toxins, or poisons, in the seaweed. The epidemiologists had found the disease-producing toxins, but their investigation was not over. The epidemiologists began on the next step. They asked more questions. They found out where the seaweed had been harvested.



Hawaii

The epidemiologists went to the site where the seaweed had been harvested. They swam around, looking for the toxin source. Finally, they found it. The source was found in a clump of seaweed. The source was a blue-green algae that was poisoning the seaweed. Epidemiologists had tracked the disease to its source. Now they could stop the outbreak. They could stop people from harvesting seaweed at that site. They could stop people from harvesting seaweed near blue-green algae.

Disease Detectives



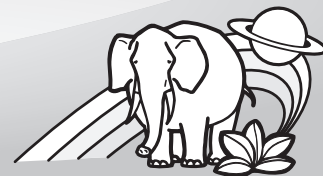
After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) investigating a disease outbreak.
 - (b) the questions epidemiologists ask.
 - (c) a traditional seaweed dish from Hawaii.
 - (d) the Center for Disease Control's mission.
2. The toxin source was
 - (a) the picnic.
 - (b) the seaweed.
 - (c) the blue-green algae.
 - (d) the traditional seaweed dish.
3. Henry exhibited symptoms of being bored. Henry was most likely
 - (a) eating.
 - (b) reading.
 - (c) yawning.
 - (d) playing.
4. If many people were falling ill in a certain section of the city, epidemiologists might ask if the people
 - (a) knew how to ride bicycles.
 - (b) spoke more than one language.
 - (c) were left handed or right handed.
 - (d) had the same drinking-water source.
5. Think about how the word *founded* relates to *end*. Which words relate in the same way?

founded : end

 - (a) tracked : follow
 - (b) exhibited : hide
 - (c) notified : inform
 - (d) harvested : gather

Answer Key



What Swallowed Camels

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. A

Why Mari Said, "No"!

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. D

The Amazing Jumper

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. C

Conjoined Twins

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. A

Identical Trees

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. B

The Extreme Sport of Paper Folding

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. C

What Was Not a Grave

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. D

A Town That Gets No Sun

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A

45,000 Years of Penguin Droppings

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. B

Finding the Counterfeit Coin

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. C

Amphibian Escort

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. A
5. D

Blisters—To Pop or Not

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. A

The World's First Life Preserver

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C

What Is It?

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. D

Getting Stung on Purpose

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. C

A Season for Potholes

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. A

The True Story Behind DNA

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. C

Strange Stomach Stories

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. D

A Parachute and a Shark

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. B

A True Case from 1856

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. B

What Came First

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. A

The Most Expensive Rattle

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. C

The Mammal with a Suit of Armor

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C

Moon Rocks

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. B

Injecting Poison on Purpose

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. D

The 5,000-Year-Old Man

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. D

A Quiver of Cobras

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. D

The Price of a Crooked Finger

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. A

May I Draw a Round Perimeter?

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. D

Why Warm Flowers?

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. C

Space Animals

1. D
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. A

"Operation Successful, Patient Died"

1. D
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. B

The Missing Crust

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. C

The Abandoned City of the Future

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. B

Ant Farmers

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. B

The Human Ecosystem

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. C

The Richter Scale

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. D

What the Meteorologists Found

1. B
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. C

Observing the Jackal

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. C

Disease Detectives

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. D
5. B

The Astronomer with the Metal Nose

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. A

Taking a Volcano's Pulse

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A

The King of Soaring

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. C

Tuberculosis and a Cave

1. A
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. D