Passage 3

Animals and their Venom

A. Some animals seem defenseless in the face of the larger and stronger ones. Yet those not endowed with strength, speed or sharp talons and teeth use other means to defend and protect themselves. For instance, the box jellyfish or sea wasp of the seas of Asia and Australia has venom that causes excruciating pain and, in severe circumstances, even death. Vinegar is the best first aid measure for this animal's stings, although it will not help alleviate the pain.

B. In the rainforests of South and Central America, there is a species of frog that is both remarkable and very deadly. They are called poison dart frogs. The frog's skin contains lethal poison that can kill a large animal or a person when the frog is touched or eaten. Conversely, a very gentle and shy reptile in Australia is tagged as the most poisonous snake on Earth. This is the Inland Taipan. It usually hunts mice and birds, but if disturbed, attacks humans. The amount of venom from a bite of this snake can kill a hundred persons, but it can be neutralized with antivenom. The Inland Taipan is more poisonous than the rattlesnake and cobra.

C. There are thousands of extremely poisonous animals around the world. These creatures can come in vivid colors, like the blue-ringed octopus, or they can blend with their surroundings, like the stonefish. Hence, although some creatures may seem vulnerable or interesting, it is best to always exercise caution when in the wild in order to avoid harm or death.

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Questions

Look at the following characteristics (Questions 1– 4) and the list of animals (A – E) below.

Match each animal with their unique characteristics.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

A. Inland Taipan
B. stonefish
C. sea wasp
D. blue-ringed octopus
E. poison dart frog

1. Its poison can be neutralized with vinegar.
2. It is deadly when handled with bare hands.
3. It is a venomous reptile indigenous to Australia.
4. It conceals itself very well in its environment.

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in each numbered statement in the list.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Match the numbered statement with its corresponding lettered item.

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