DAILY Warm-Up 12

Name _____ Date _____

PUFFER FISH

There are over 120 different species of puffer fish. These fish are found typically in tropical and subtropical waters. They are found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Another name for the puffer fish is the blowfish or the globefish. The puffer fish inflates itself with either water or air as a form of protection. When inflated, it is difficult for predators to swallow them. They can puff themselves up because they have elastic skin and no ribs.

The teeth of the puffer fish are so sharp that they could sever a finger. The upper and lower jaws of the puffer fish are fused together. The puffer fish uses its beak-like teeth to prey on coral and hard-shelled animals. They blend in with the coral and like to live on the bottom of the ocean. They feed on mollusks and crustaceans. The puffer fish grows to be about 50 cm long.

The puffer fish is fatally poisonous. This is unusual because humans actually eat puffer fish. In Japan they are considered a delicacy. Even though the poison is removed, some people still die after eating them.

Puffer fish are some of the few fish known to close and blink their eyes. Scientists have observed dolphins using puffer fish as a sort of toy in the wild. The dolphin irritates the puffer fish so that it will inflate. Some species of puffer fish are territorial and aggressive.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In this passage, the word *territorial* means . . .
   a. to mock.
   b. to imitate.
   c. patronizing.
   d. protective.
2. Which statement is false?
   a. The puffer fish is poisonous.
   b. The puffer fish can blink its eyes.
   c. The puffer fish mimics a blown up ball.
   d. The puffer fish is a good aquarium fish.
3. The puffer fish is also known as the . . .
   a. blow fish.
   b. globe fish.
   c. blowfish or globefish.
   d. ballfish

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LIVEWORKSHEETS