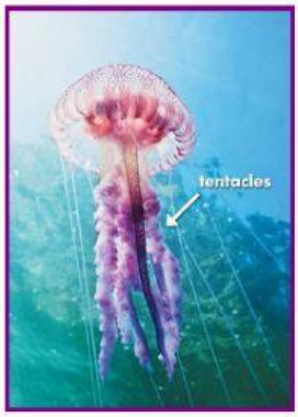
Reading 2 – Jellyfish



This is an extract from a science report about jellyfish. Read it twice and answer the questions.

DEFINITIONS

- ***Prey**: An animal that is hunted by another animal for food.*
- ***Predator**: An animal that hunts another animal.*
- ***Sting**: To cause a wound or pain by the injection of poison.*

Jellyfish are not fish. They are fish-eating animals that float in the sea. They come in a huge range of different shapes and sizes. Only about five percent of the body of a jellyfish is solid matter; the rest is water. They have soft, jellylike bodies, no bones and long, poisonous tentacles that they use to catch their prey and protect themselves from predators. Sometimes they sting people who are swimming, too.
There are many types of jellyfish. The smallest are just a few centimetres across. One of the biggest species of jellyfish lives in the Antarctic Sea. Its tentacles can reach up to 45 metres, or about half a football pitch!

One of the deadliest jellyfish is the Box Jelly. The venomous sting of this jellyfish can kill people. In Australia, the Box Jelly kills up to 65 people a year.

Most jellyfish tend to eat small creatures such as shrimps, plankton and microscopic fish. They wait for their prey to move along, covering their tentacles around them and injecting them with a poison. But jellyfish themselves are vulnerable to predators and are eaten by creatures that don't fear their tentacles, e.g. turtles or other jellyfish.

Jellyfish have no brain, heart or bones, except for a jaw! Jellyfish breathe in a different way to humans or fish. They have no lungs or gills. The wall of their body and tentacles are so thin that oxygen is able to pass directly from the water into their internal organs.

Jellyfish release their eggs and sperm into the water which eventually meet and the egg is fertilised. The jellyfish egg quickly becomes an embryo and begins to develop in the ocean.

When you see jellyfish on the beach you wouldn't imagine there was so much to learn about them!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

18. The bodies of all jellyfish are...

A. mostly made of solid matter.

B. soft and wide.

C. similar in size and shape.

D. thin, mostly made of water.

19. Jellyfish use their tentacles...

A. to attract their predators.

B. to both catch and sting their prey.

C. to help them swim and move around.

D. basically to sting swimmers.

20. Say which one is true:

A. All big species live in the Antarctic Sea.

B. All jellyfish have tentacles that can reach up to 45 metres.

C. The smallest jellyfish has no tentacles.

D. The tentacles of one of the biggest jellyfish can be as big as half a football pitch.

21. Jellyfish normally eat...

A. small predators thanks to their poisonous tentacles.

B. jellyfish, shrimp and any kind of fish.

C. jellyfish, shrimp and microscopic sea creatures.

D. plankton, shrimp, turtles and fish.

22. Jellyfish can be prey to other predators such as...

_____ **and** _____.

23. The only bone jellyfish have is the_____.

24. Jellyfish...

A. breathe in the same way as fish.

B. absorb the oxygen in the water directly.

C. don't need oxygen to survive.

D. breath through their internal organs.

25. Jellyfish eggs...

A. are fertilised inside their body.

B. are fertilised in the water.

C. don't need sperm to become embryos.

D. don't survive if they don't meet sperm immediately.

LIVEWORKSHEETS