



## CLOWN FISH

Did you know that a clown lives in the ocean? That's right. The clown fish lives in the ocean. The clown fish gets its name because it looks like it has a clown face painted on to its face. It's not really makeup or paint; it's just how the clown fish looks. The well-known clown fish is colored bright orange and white. There are other types of clown fish that come in different bright colors.

The coloring of the clown fish makes it easy for its enemy to spot it. In order to stay safe, the clown fish hides inside the "branches" of the sea anemone. The sea anemone looks like a small bush in the ocean. The branches of the sea anemone are poisonous. The tentacles can sting the fish. You may wonder how the clown fish keeps from getting hurt. The answer is that the clown fish is unaffected by the venom of the sea anemone. It is the only fish like this.

What does the clown fish eat? The clown fish eats zooplankton. Zooplankton are very tiny animals that float around in the seawater. Sometimes they are so small that you cannot see them without a microscope.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. When do you think a clown fish would leave the sea anemone's tentacles?
  - a. to seek food
  - b. to seek safety
  - c. to chase away its enemy
  - d. to recover from the poison of the sea anemone
2. Which statement is true?
  - a. The sea anemone is related to the clown fish.
  - b. The clown fish must be careful to avoid the anemone's tentacles.
  - c. Most of the animals that eat sea anemone eat clown fish as well.
  - d. Clown fish are brightly-colored fish.
3. In this passage, the word *unaffected* means . . .
  - a. unchanged.
  - b. unharmed.
  - c. killed instantly.
  - d. unchallenged.