

Alien STINGERS

Gear up your sensory systems! Look, listen, and touch to explore this exhibit. Your mission is to discover the alien world of cnidarians.

exhibit exploration

Name of explorer:

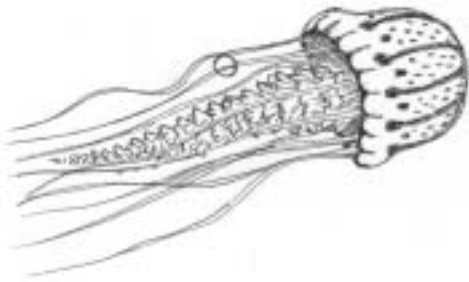
STING-O-METER

The nematocysts, or stingers, of cnidarians are grouped into one of three categories depending on whether they use sticky glue, tiny threads, or toxins. Check out the sting-o-meter and the graphics to answer the following questions.

1. Which species has the most deadly stinging cells?

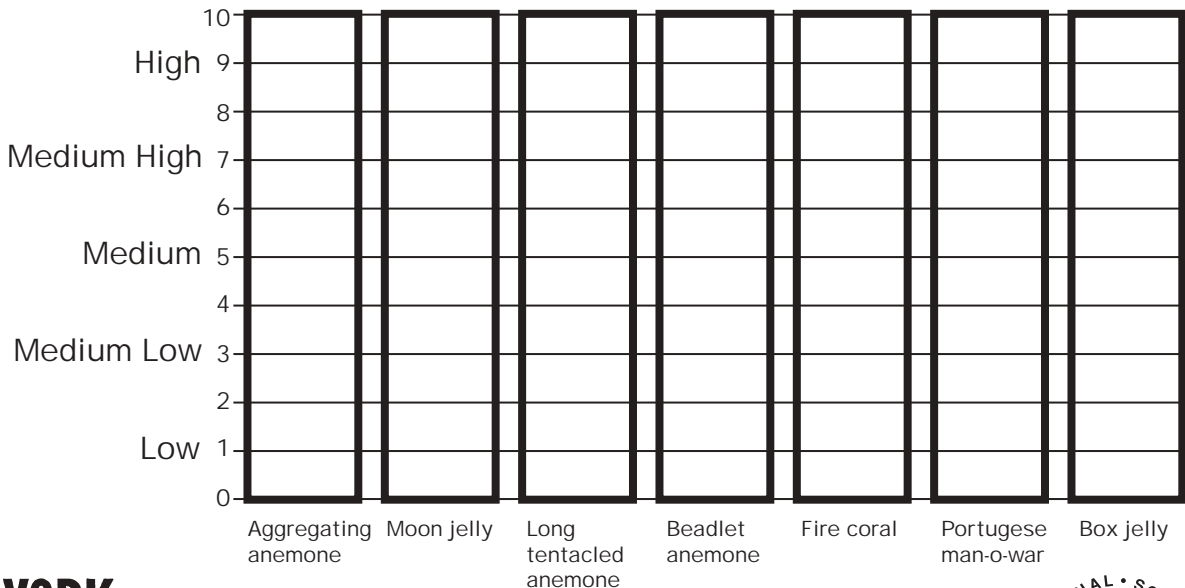
2. What animal has the lowest sting intensity? (It feels something like your fingers after you've touched sticky candies.)

3. After examining the sting-o-meter, fill in the bar graph to show how strong each animal's sting is.



STING INTENSITY

Low: 0-2
 Medium Low: 2-4
 Medium: 4-6
 Medium High: 6-8
 High: 8-10



NEW YORK AQUARIUM





Ammunition has a high cost!

4. Like an arrow, once a nematocyst (stinger) is fired, it's lost. It takes about 70% of the energy from a meal to replace the lost stingers with new ones. Let's try some math! If an anemone ate 200 calories of fish, how many calories would it take to make new nematocysts?

Circle the correct answer.

- a. 25 b. 140 c. 85 d. 150

5. Stinging helps the animals survive. Name two ways stinging cells help cnidarians:

1. _____
2. _____

6. These animals have a mouth to take in food. Since they have no other opening, where do you think their solid waste goes?

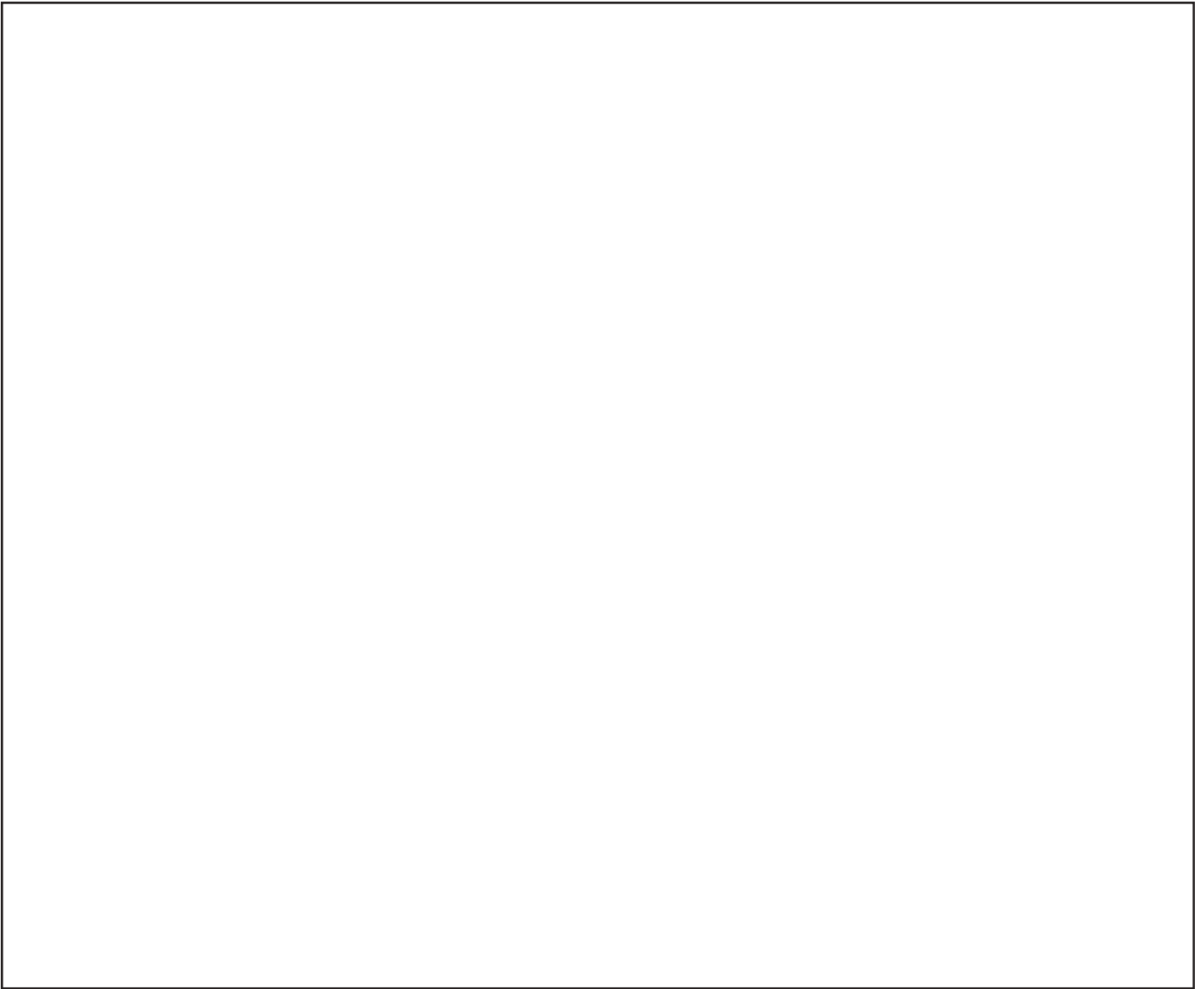
7. Look at the aggregating anemones. Why does one group sting another?

WHY STING?



MAKING MORE

8. Check out the sea jelly's life cycle. Can you draw and label the main stages of development?



9. Why don't you usually see jellies in the winter? (Think about what stage of the life cycle they might be in.)

Look at the variety of shapes, colors, sizes, and body structure of cnidarians—from a single floating jelly blob to a stony underwater city made up of millions of coral polyps.

SAME GROUP!

10. Carefully look at an anemone, a sea jelly, and a coral. Why are they in the same group, or phylum? Read the graphics and list three common characteristics.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



11. Do you notice any differences among the animals in this phylum? Fill in the chart.

ANIMAL	Shape (flower or umbrella)	Location of Mouth (top or bottom)	Movement (still or moving)	Skeleton (present or absent)
Coral				
Jelly				
Anemone				



Congratulations! You have finished your explorer's sheet. Be sure to use all of your senses as you investigate the rest of the exhibit, and have fun!

