



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE SEA ANEMONE

The sea anemone is closely related to the coral and the jellyfish. It looks a lot like a flower called the anemone, which is how it got its name. The animal's body has a plant-like appearance. It comes in a variety of colors, including red, blue, pink, and green. The sea anemone is an invertebrate, which means it has no skeleton. This sea animal attaches itself to rocks, the sea floor, coral, or other firm objects.

The sea anemone is a predatory animal that stings its prey with its tentacles. This paralyzes the victim, and the sea anemone then pushes the animal into the mouth. The sea anemone eats small fish, worms, mussels, and zooplankton. Very few animals eat the sea anemone. The great sea slug is one of its predators.

The sea anemone can grow up to 10 inches wide. It has a long, hollow tube. It likes to live in dark places and in warm waters. The sea anemone has an interesting relationship with other sea animals. The hermit crab places the sea anemone on top of its shell to use it as camouflage. The clown fish lives amongst the sea anemone for protection. The clown fish is not affected by the sea anemone's stinging tentacles. For most fish, though, avoiding the sea anemone is the best option.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be a good title for this reading passage?
  - a. "The Sea Anemone's Diet"
  - b. "The Anemone's Habitat"
  - c. "Interesting Facts and Details about the Sea Anemone"
  - d. "Indigenous Animals of the Sea"
2. Which paragraph explains the eating habits of the sea anemone?
  - a. first
  - b. second
  - c. third
  - d. not mentioned in passage
3. Locate the statement below that is a fact.
  - a. The sea anemone is a colorful ocean plant.
  - b. The sea anemone is a nocturnal animal.
  - c. The sea anemone has short legs.
  - d. The sea anemone attaches itself to rocks and other firm surfaces.
4. In this passage, the word *predatory* means . . .
  - a. prays often.
  - b. using one's nose to locate things.
  - c. digging in the ocean floor.
  - d. killing for food.