

CNIDARIANS

NAME _____

CNIDARIANS

Cnidarians are a group of _____ animals that come in two main body shapes.

_____ have a bowl-shaped body.



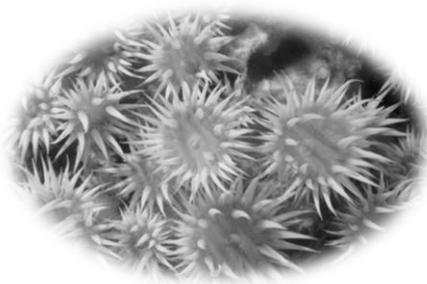
_____ have a vase-shaped body.



Cnidarians are known for their _____ bristles. The special stinging cells at the ends of their tentacles are called _____.

Each nematocyst cell has a sharp needlelike _____ that contains _____ which it injects into prey on physical contact.

Cnidarians are animals with _____ symmetry with animal parts arranged in a _____ form.



The phylum "Cnidaria" is made up of four major groups:

HYDROZOANS

Hydrozoans are a group of approximately _____ species of animals that live mostly in _____.

This group's life cycle includes both a _____ and a _____ stage.

Examples of hydrozoans are _____, _____, and _____.

JELLYFISH

Jellyfish are _____. Inside their bell-shaped body is an opening that is its _____. They eat fish, shrimp, crabs, and tiny plants. They eat and then discard waste from the _____ opening.

Jellyfish move by _____ water from their mouths. This _____ them forward.

All jellyfish can sting, but the sting of the _____ is the most dangerous to humans.

Jelly fish can range in size from very small, one _____, to very large, with a diameter of almost two _____.

Jellyfish are the favorite meal of many _____.

SEA ANEMONES

Sea anemones have a _____ shape and look like _____. There are approximately 1,000 different species worldwide and they come in a variety of colors.



The sea anemone has a soft, muscular, _____-shaped stalk with a broad, circular foot at its base. Atop the stalk is a _____ surrounded by circular rows of hollow tentacles.

The tentacles, which eject _____ stinging threads to _____ prey, grasp small animals and sweep them into the mouth.

Usually, the sea anemone lives attached by its _____ to shells, rocks, or wharf pilings. It can, however, slowly _____ along the ocean floor on its foot or swims by moving its tentacles.

When disturbed, the animal _____ its body, pulls its _____ inside its mouth, and draws its mouth together like a pouch.

Sea anemones reproduce both _____ and _____. Asexually, they usually reproduce by dividing in _____, each half forming a new animal.

Sea anemones vary greatly in size, depending on the species. Some tropical species are up to _____ in diameter. The brown sea anemone, found in the Northern Hemisphere, is about _____ in diameter.

Anemones and Clown Fish have a _____ relationship. The Clown Fish are protected from predator fish by the stinging tentacles of the anemone. The Clown Fish have a special _____ to protect themselves from being stung.



The anemone receives _____ from polyp-eating fish, like Butterfly Fish, which the Clown Fish _____ away.

CORAL

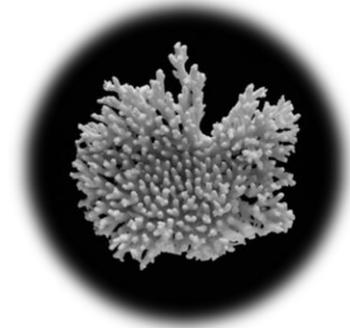
Coral is a _____ (vase shaped body). Individually these creatures are only 1 – 7 mm long but trillions of them work together to build large _____.

Coral polyps make reefs by building small homes for themselves out of _____ (calcium carbonate) which they take from the sea water.

Coral gets their color from the _____ that lives inside the bodies of the coral polyps. This algae, _____, help make food for the coral.

Because the algae need _____ to photosynthesize, corals must live in _____ water where sunlight can reach them.

Some coral polyps around the world are _____ out the algae, turning white, and dying. This is called _____.



CNIDARIANS

NAME KEY

CNIDARIANS

Cnidarians are a group of aquatic animals that come in two main body shapes.

Medusas

have a bowl-shaped body.



Polyps

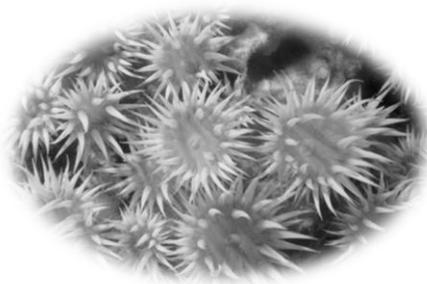
have a vase-shaped body.



Cnidarians are known for their stinging bristles. The special stinging cells at the ends of their tentacles are called nematocysts.

Each nematocyst cell has a sharp needlelike barb that contains poison which it injects into prey on physical contact.

Cnidarians are animals with radial symmetry with animal parts arranged in a circular form.



The phylum "Cnidaria" is made up of four major groups:

Hydrozoans

Sea Anemones

Jellyfish

Coral

HYDROZOANS

Hydrozoans are a group of approximately 3,700 species of animals that live mostly in saltwater.

This group's life cycle includes both a medusa and a polyp stage.

Examples of hydrozoans are fire coral, freshwater hydras, and Portuguese man-of-war.

JELLYFISH

Jellyfish are medusas. Inside their bell-shaped body is an opening that is its mouth. They eat fish, shrimp, crabs, and tiny plants. They eat and then discard waste from the same opening.

Jellyfish move by squirting water from their mouths. This propels them forward.

All jellyfish can sting, but the sting of the sea wasp is the most dangerous to humans.

Jelly fish can range in size from very small, one millimeter, to very large, with a diameter of almost two meters.

Jellyfish are the favorite meal of many sea turtles.

SEA ANEMONES

Sea anemones have a polyp shape and look like flowers. There are approximately 1,000 different species worldwide and they come in a variety of colors.



The sea anemone has a soft, muscular, cylinder-shaped stalk with a broad, circular foot at its base. Atop the stalk is a mouth surrounded by circular rows of hollow tentacles.

The tentacles, which eject poisonous stinging threads to paralyze prey, grasp small animals and sweep them into the mouth.

Usually, the sea anemone lives attached by its foot to shells, rocks, or wharf pilings. It can, however, slowly slide along the ocean floor on its foot or swims by moving its tentacles.

When disturbed, the animal contracts its body, pulls its tentacles inside its mouth, and draws its mouth together like a pouch.

Sea anemones reproduce both asexually and sexually. Asexually, they usually reproduce by dividing in two, each half forming a new animal.

Sea anemones vary greatly in size, depending on the species. Some tropical species are up to three feet in diameter. The brown sea anemone, found in the Northern Hemisphere, is about three inches in diameter.

Anemones and Clown Fish have a symbiotic relationship. The Clown Fish are protected from predator fish by the stinging tentacles of the anemone. The Clown Fish have a special mucus to protect themselves from being stung.



The anemone receives protection from polyp-eating fish, like Butterfly Fish, which the Clown Fish chases away.

CORAL

Coral is a polyp (vase shaped body). Individually these creatures are only 1 – 7 mm long but trillions of them work together to build large coral reefs.

Coral polyps make reefs by building small homes for themselves out of limestone (calcium carbonate) which they take from the sea water.

Coral gets their color from the algae that lives inside the bodies of the coral polyps. This algae, zooanthellae, help make food for the coral.

Because the algae need sunlight to photosynthesize, corals must live in shallow water where sunlight can reach them.

Some coral polyps around the world are spitting out the algae, turning white, and dying. This is called bleaching.

