

Stealing Stings



Nudibranchs aren't born with strong defenses—so they take them from other animals.

LEXILE: 1040L

SCIENCE (NGSS) STANDARD: From Molecules to Organisms

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, W.6-8.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Start the lesson by asking students to independently list as many animal defenses as they can. Ask them to name these defenses. Did anyone mention stinging? Ask if any students have been stung by an animal—by an insect, for instance. Invite volunteers to name the animal and describe the sting. Ask students if they've heard of a sea slug. Tell them they'll be reading about a type of sea slug and how it defends itself.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Why does Jessica Goodheart compare nudibranchs to pirates? Do you think it's an appropriate comparison?
- What's the purpose of stealing stings?
- Do you think these are important animals to study? Explain.

EXTEND LEARNING

Explain that stinging creatures such as jellyfish and anemones are called cnidarians. Have partners work together to research cnidarians and their ability to sting. Have them summarize the process with words, a drawing, or a video. Have a discussion about how understanding this process helps students better understand nudibranchs. Invite them to reread the article to solidify their understanding.

Return to the discussion about stinging animals from the beginning of the lesson. Talk about how the types of stings differ. Then invite students to research what a person should do in the event of different kinds of animal stings. Remind them that an animal typically stings only when touched or threatened. Knowing this, and what to do in the event of a sting, can help them feel less fearful of these kinds of animals.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

**1. B (RI.1) 2. A (RI.4) 3. D (RI.1) 4. B (RI.3) 5. D (RI.8)
6. A (RI.2) 7. Answers will vary. (W.2)**

Name _____

Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Stealing Stings," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. Nudibranchs are also known as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. thieves.B. sea slugs.C. tiny pirates.D. curators.	<p>4. According to the article, what do cells in the immune system do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. carry nutrients throughout the bodyB. surround and kill bad bacteriaC. breathe and dispense painful stingsD. digest stings
<p>2. Based on the context, to pillage means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. to steal.B. to give.C. to sting.D. to lurk. .	<p>5. What did Goodheart and her team discover about the cells in a nudibranch that store stings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The cells are directly involved with immunityB. The cells digest nematocysts.C. The cells are similar to human white blood cells.D. The cells are not directly involved with immunity or digestion.
<p>3. Jessica Goodheart compares nudibranchs to pirates because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. they're found in oceans all over the world.B. they wear ski masks.C. they don't have a shell.D. they're robbers.	<p>6. Understanding how a nudibranch's specialized cells work may help us understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. how the human immune system can adapt.B. how humans can sting.C. how digestion works.D. how immunity works.

7. Animals have adaptations that help them defend themselves. Think of another animal's means of defense. Describe it below.
