

Do the preparation exercise first. Then, read the text about Starfish medicine and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-j next to the number 1-10.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1..... | a starfish | a. | to feel that somebody or something is going to hurt you |
| 2..... | treatment | b. | any tube in the body which blood goes through |
| 3..... | spines | c. | an illness caused by an infection where part of the body is hot or grows bigger |
| 4..... | to feel threatened | d. | the act of giving medicine to help make a disease better |
| 5..... | an inflammatory illness | e. | a group of atoms which are bonded together |
| 6..... | non-stick | f. | sharp, pointed parts of a plant or an animal |
| 7..... | a molecule | g. | a sea animal shaped like a star |
| 8..... | asthma | h. | a small sea animal with a shell which sticks to rocks |
| 9..... | a barnacle | i. | a disease which causes difficulty breathing |
| 10..... | a blood vessel | j. | a surface that things don't stick to |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the correct option to complete the sentences.

- The thing that scientists find very interesting about a starfish is ...
 - the position of its mouth.
 - the shape of its body.
 - what happens when it senses danger.
- The liquid produced by starfish ...
 - is not very sticky.
 - could have medical uses.
 - has already been used in hospitals.
- The idea for the project ...
 - came about when some scientists met in a social situation.
 - came about after two scientists got married.
 - came from one prominent scientist.

4. The scientists thought that the starfish's non-stick properties could be used ...
 - a. for a number of different scientific purposes.
 - b. in the field of chemistry.
 - c. to treat certain diseases.
5. The starfish's non-stick property ...
 - a. is part of its defence system.
 - b. is a mystery to scientists.
 - c. sometimes attracts bacteria and barnacles.
6. The scientists hope they can ...
 - a. learn a lot more about the starfish's habits.
 - b. develop a new treatment for diseases by studying starfish.
 - c. find out exactly why starfish produce a sticky liquid.

2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word which appears in CAPITAL LETTERS. You must not change the word in capital letters. Use a maximum of five words. For example:

Scientists find the sticky liquid interesting.

INTERESTED

Scientists **are interested in** the sticky liquid.

1. Starfish produce a sticky liquid when they feel threatened.

PRODUCED

A sticky liquid _____ when they feel threatened.

2. Dr Charlie Bavington is Managing Director of a marine biotechnology company.

CHARGE

Dr Charlie Bavington is _____ a marine biotechnology company.

3. Dr Bavington started a company after he returned to the project.

UP

After he returned to the project, _____ a company.

4. Scientists have studied possible medical uses of the starfish's sticky liquid and also of the starfish's skin surface.

INTO

Scientists _____ possible medical uses of the starfish's sticky liquid and also of the starfish's skin surface.

5. Starfish need to have a defence and part of that is a kind of non-stick property.

THEMSELVES

Starfish _____ by having a non-stick property.

6. If scientists can regulate the sticking and migrating process, then they may have a new kind of treatment.

ORDER

Scientists are trying to regulate the sticking and migrating process _____ develop a new kind of treatment.

Discussion

What other amazing medicines do you know?