Name: _____ Date: _____

A Sea Star Can Grow Back an Arm

Circle group

A sea star lives on the bottom of the sea. It has no head. It has no tail. Most sea stars have five arms. Each arm has tiny feet.

Sometimes a sea star loses an arm. A crab may pull it off. But the sea star can grow a new arm.

The new arm is small at first. Then it gets bigger. It takes many months.

The sea star keeps on living. It still walks on its tiny feet. It still looks for clams and snails to eat.

Questions

1. Where does a sea star live?

_____

_____

2. How many arms do most sea stars have?

_____

_____

3. What can a sea star do when it loses an arm?

_____

_____

4. What does a sea star eat?

_____

_____

5. Why can the sea star still look for food with a new arm growing?

_____

_____

Words to know

arm: one of the long parts that stick out from the body of a sea star
clams: sea animals with two hard shells
snails: small soft animals that carry a shell on their backs

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Sea Star Can Grow Back an Arm

Triangle group

A sea star lives on the bottom of the ocean. It has no head and no tail. Most sea stars have five arms, and each arm has tiny feet underneath.

Sometimes a sea star loses an arm. Maybe a crab pulled on it, or a rock fell on it. That is not the end of the story. The sea star can grow a new arm in its place.

It takes a long time. The new arm starts out small and then gets bigger and bigger. It may take many months before the arm is as long as the others.

While it waits, the sea star keeps on living. It still moves along the sand on its little feet. It still looks for food, like clams and snails.

Questions

1. Where does a sea star live?

_____

_____

2. How many arms do most sea stars have?

_____

_____

3. What can a sea star do when it loses an arm?

_____

_____

4. What does a sea star eat?

_____

_____

5. Why does the sea star keep moving while the arm grows back?

_____

_____

Words to know

ocean: a very large body of salt water
arm: one of the long parts that stick out from the body of a sea star
clams: sea animals with two hard shells
snails: small soft animals that carry a shell on their backs

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Sea Star Can Grow Back an Arm

Square group

A sea star spends its life on the bottom of the ocean. It has neither a head nor a tail, and most sea stars have five arms, each with rows of tiny feet underneath.

Occasionally a sea star loses an arm, perhaps because a hungry crab pulled on it or a rock tumbled onto it. Remarkably, that is not the end of the story, because the sea star is able to grow a new arm in its place.

The process is slow. The new arm begins very small and gradually gets bigger, and it may take many months before it is as long as the others.

Meanwhile, the sea star carries on with its life. It still crawls across the sand on its little feet, and it still hunts for food such as clams and snails.

Questions

1. Where does a sea star spend its life?

_____

_____

2. How many arms do most sea stars have?

_____

_____

3. What is a sea star able to do after it loses an arm?

_____

_____

4. Which foods does a sea star hunt for?

_____

_____

5. Why can the sea star keep hunting while the new arm is still growing?

_____

_____

Words to know

ocean: a very large body of salt water
arm: one of the long parts that stick out from the body of a sea star
clams: sea animals with two hard shells
snails: small soft animals that carry a shell on their backs

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Sea Star Can Grow Back an Arm

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Sea Star Can Grow Back an Arm

Easier · 88 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.1

1. On the bottom of the sea.
2. Five arms.
3. It can grow a new arm.
4. Clams and snails.
5. It still has its other arms and feet.

Triangle: A Sea Star Can Grow Back an Arm

This passage · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. On the bottom of the ocean.
2. Five arms.
3. It can grow a new arm.
4. Clams and snails.
5. It can still use its other arms and feet, so it can look for food.

Square: A Sea Star Can Grow Back an Arm

Harder · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. On the bottom of the ocean.
2. Five arms.
3. Grow a new arm in its place.
4. Clams and snails.
5. It can still use its other arms and feet to move and find food.