



# World's Most Venomous!

The Box Jellyfish is probably the most **venomous** animal in the world. At least 5,567 people have died from Box Jellyfish stings since 1954. The **toxins** attack the heart, nervous system, and skin cells. Box Jellyfish venom is also **excruciating**, and if you do survive a sting from a Box Jellyfish, you will experience **residual** pain for weeks after the actual contact. A person has **virtually** no chance of surviving the venomous sting unless they receive immediate treatment. Vinegar, which contains acetic acid, should be applied to the sting for at least 30 seconds. The acetic acid disables the Box Jellyfish's nematocysts that have not yet **discharged** into the bloodstream. However, the vinegar will not **alleviate** the pain. One preventative measure against a Box Jellyfish sting is to wear panty hose while you are swimming. This can keep jellyfish from being able to sting your legs. Box Jellyfish are native to the waters around Asia and Australia.

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the best meaning for each bold-faced word from the passage. Then write the clues from the passage that helped you choose the correct meaning.

1. **Venomous** means:                                    A. poisonous    B. cruel

CLUES: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Toxin** means:                                      A. chemical    B. poisonous

CLUES: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Excruciating** means:                            A. uncomfortable                                    B. very painful

CLUES: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Residual** means:                                A. left over after main event                    B. ongoing

CLUES: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Virtually** means:                                A. always    B. almost

CLUES: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Discharged** means:                            A. released    B. removed

CLUES: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Alleviate** means:                                A. make less severe                                B. make less noticeable

CLUES: \_\_\_\_\_