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: 

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