

bites & stings

task: Research a creature that inflicts a seriously dangerous or annoying bite or sting in an area that you visit, & answer the questions below. (In the box below there are a number of suggested creatures.)

SAMPLE ANSWERS

tiger snake	bush tick	saltwater crocodile	box jelly fish	sun gray	blue ringed octopus
cane toad	mosquito	jumping jack ant	funnel web spider	sandfly	white pointer shark

1) names of creature: a. common: *freshwater crocodile* b. scientific: *crocodylus johnsoni*

2) type of creature: insect reptile marine creature other (specify) _____

3) image





photo credit: www.wildorchidimages.com.au

4) distribution (shade areas on the map)



5) description of creature (incl size, habitat, defence/s, predators/prey, etc.):

Freshies live in the rivers & creeks of the Top End. They have narrow snouts. Males grow up to 3 metres. Their eggs & hatchlings are vulnerable to many predators. They eat insects, fish, frogs, lizards, etc.

6) possible harm caused by bite or sting:

Freshies are timid & unprovoked attacks are rare, but they can give a nasty bite. They have terrible dental hygiene, so there is a real risk of infection.

7) prevention:

Do not disturb these creatures & stay away from their nests during the dry season. Don't take chances with crocs: if you see a croc, assume it is a saltie — unless there is proof otherwise.

8) management:

Stop bleeding with direct pressure & elevation. Irrigate wound (preferably with sterile water). Monitor for shock. Seek medical assistance. (Antibiotics & stitches may be necessary.)

bonus question: What is/are the most fascinating thing/s about the creature you have chosen?

- Mr Freshy at Australia Zoo is about 130 years old.*
- If a freshy loses a tooth, it will regrow.*
- Lots of freshies have been poisoned by eating cane toads.*

