Australia’s Box Jellyfish: A Killer Down Under

Directions: As you read the article, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is the scientific name for the box jellyfish? What are some slang names?

2. Why is the box jellyfish so dangerous?

3. What are the dimensions of a large box jellyfish?

4. What length of tentacle is necessary to deliver a lethal dose? How much to cause pain?

5. What are the life stages of the box jellyfish mentioned in the article?

6. Why are the jellyfish a problem along the Australian coast?

7. What are nematocysts?
8. Why do surfers wear two pairs of pantyhose when they surf?

9. Why is box jellyfish venom more dangerous than spider’s and snake’s venom?

10. How is the antivenin produced to treat box jellyfish stings?

11. What new type of aquarium was developed to hold the box jellyfish? Why is it different?

12. Why did the box jellyfish instantly kill the banana prawns?

13. How did the scientists discover the box jellyfish could “see?”

14. How is the box jellyfish vulnerable?