

## What is a stingray?

- Stingrays are a group of rays that are part of class.
- Chondrichthyes are fish that are jawed with paired fins, paired nares, scales, a heart with chambers, and a skeletal system made up of instead of bone.
- Class: Chondrichthyes
- Kingdom: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Phylum: Chordata
- Environment: Tropical \_\_\_\_\_ waters
- Reproduction: \_\_\_\_\_ Reproduction

## Defense

- • Most stingrays have one or more \_\_\_\_\_ on their tail that is only used in a defensive state.
- • The stinger on a sting ray can grow to a length of 14 inches.
- • On the underside of the stingray there are two venom \_\_\_\_\_.
- • They have a thin layer of skin known as the sheath which holds and concentrates the venom.
- • The flattened body of a stingray allows the fish to lay in the sand and hide from or plan to capture their enemy.

## **Reproduction**

- Stingrays reproduce sexually
- A male stingray will pick out a female and follow her closely. Pretty much stalking the female stingray
- He will give the signal by biting her \_\_\_\_\_ disc and then he will place one of his two \_\_\_\_\_ into her valve.
- The female will hold the embryos in her womb without a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The babies will get the needed nutrients by absorbing them through a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Once the sac is depleted, the mother will provide "milk".

A female will have a litter with anywhere from \_to 13 babies.

## **What does a stingray eat?**

- A stingray will mainly feed on \_\_\_\_\_ and small fish.
- Some stingrays will go on diets which consist of small fish, snails, clams, and shrimp.

- Stingrays consume their prey by using \_\_\_\_\_ since their eyes are on top of their head and their \_\_\_\_\_ is on the underside, causing them to not see the prey.
- Stingrays have \_\_\_\_\_powerful, shell crushing plates for a mouth and a few other species only have \_\_\_\_\_ for mouth parts.
- When a stingray eats, it will lay on the ocean floor and hide so only the tail will show.
- Stingrays like to stay by \_\_\_\_\_ to eat and will often share the reefs with sharks

### **Does a Stingray Attack?**

- The stingray does not aggressively attack humans.
- A stingray will only attack if attacked or stepped on.
- The stinger will cause \_\_\_\_\_from the cut, pain, and swelling
- The \_\_\_\_\_ will cause muscle cramps and can later cause an \_\_\_\_\_from the bacteria or fungus that was on the stinger.

- Getting stung will be painful and require surgery but is very seldom life threatening. To be life threatening the stinger will have to deeply pierce a vital area.
- Surgery will be needed when being stung by a stingray because the \_\_\_\_\_ of the stinger will break off in the wound and will need to be removed from the wound.