SEA ANEMONES

What are sea anemones and their characteristics?
SEA ANEMONES

- Cnidaria [cnidarians] - diverse group of animals that are believed to be from a single common ancestor that had stinging cells

Corals  Sea Anemones  Jellyfish
SEA ANEMONES

• Characteristics:
  • Appear as underwater flowers
  • Similar to jellyfish because they possess stinging tentacles, radial symmetry and a nerve net
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• Characteristics: [continued]

• Live as a polyp (unlike Jellyfish) meaning that they are attached to a substrate by means of a muscular foot
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• Locomotion:
  • Sessile (stationary) with very limited movement
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• Feeding:
  • Uses stinging tentacles to get food
  • Stinging causes paralysis through the discharge of nematocysts
  • Also can trap food on the mucus and cilia on its surface
  • Digestion is primarily extra cellular and similar to jellyfish
Killer Anemone
SEA ANEMONES

- Digestion:
  - Waste is also discarded through the mouth
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• Reproduction:
  • Similar to that of the jellyfish
  • Can reproduce asexually by splitting in half
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• Symbiotic Relationships:
  • Clownfish (Nemo) have a protective skin coating that allow them to live within the stinging tentacles
  • They clean the anemones and protect its tentacles
Oregon Coast Sea Anemone