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Media Writing
Due: 12/12/23

Screenwriting

Act 1: The question– What is a stingray?

Opening shot:

A serene underwater scene with coral reefs and schools of fish all around. Calming music plays in the background and as music crescendos, a sting ray glides over the top of the reef

Narrator Voice over:

Throughout the vast depths of our oceans , hidden among the coral, there exists a mysterious creature–the stingray. Today, we dive into the world of the stingray to unravel the secrets of its enigmatic sting and explore the crucial steps to take when encountering one.

[Transition to footage of a different types of stingrays gracefully gliding through the water with exciting music in the background]

Narrator voice over:

The stingray, known for its flat, pancake-like body and its smooth, fluid-like motions. Sometimes described as the birds of the sea, you will never see a more rhythmic swimmer. But be warned as the sting ray comes equipped with a dangerous defense mechanism that demands respect. The venomous barb

Act 2: The exploration–how and why do stingrays sting?

[Transition to footage of sting rays hunting fish and using its barb.]

[As narrator speaks show animation of stingray body and and the biology behind the barbs]

Narrator voice over:

A sting ray's tail is armed with a serrated barb which cuts even deeper as it comes out of its victim. Although a barb is a scary enough thought on its own, sting rays are also loaded with venom which is injected through its barb and into its victim. All of these aspects make an encounter with these creatures an unforgettable experience.

[Cut to interview with an expert marine biologist out on a boat]

Marine biologist:

Stingrays are really quite docile creatures and only use their venom as a defense mechanism. Because Stingrays typically lurk in shallow warm waters and love to dig themselves under the sand to stay hidden from predators and prey, humans often encounter stingrays when both parties are least expecting it. This kicks the stingray into a defensive mode which in turn causes a stingray sting.

[Cut to reenactment of a human getting stung by a stingray and calling for help.]

Narrator voice over:

So, what should you do if you find yourself on the receiving end of a stingray's defensive strike? First and foremost, remain calm.

Act 3: Answer- what do you do when stung by a stingray?

[Cut to: "Step 1: stay calm" written on the screen]

Narrator voice over as reenactment plays of what to do:

Although this can be extremely difficult due to the pain, it is important to approach any hectic situation with a calm attitude. Panic can make the situation worse by increasing blood flow and spreading the venom further into your body. Slowly move away from the stingray and head back onto dry land. Once you are out of harms way, it is time to access the wound and inspect the affected area.

[Text on screen "Step 2: remove the stinger"]

[Reenactment continues to play as text fades out]

Narrator voice over:

After accessing the sting, you might find that part of the barb is stuck in the wound. If this is the case, it is crucial to remove it but be warned that because of its serrated edges, removing the barb will further cut the flesh and cause large amounts of bleeding. Use a pair of tweezers to remove the barb if medical professionals are not around and ensure that no one touches the barb as there could still be venom present. If the sting is anywhere near a major artery, seek medical attention immediately and do not disturb the area.

[Text on screen "Step 3: immerse in hot water"]

[Reenactment continues to play as text fades out]

Narrator voice over:

Now that the barb has been removed, the victim is able to gain a bit of relief and treatment. The only known process to help reduce the pain of stingray venom is hot soapy water. The heat will force the proteins in the venom to denature and break down, this will provide relief from the searing pain but can take quite a while. Some report up to 6 hours before getting back to normal. If you're unable to immerse the affected area in hot water immediately, apply a hot compress.

[Text on screen "Step 4: medical treatment"]

[Reenactment continues to play as text fades out]

Narrator voice over:

Regardless of the initial treatment, seeking medical attention is absolutely crucial. The venom can cause a multitude of symptoms including swelling, nausea, unbearable pain and even difficulty breathing. Some victims have said that the pain from the venom can be worse than child birth. Prompt medical care is also necessary to ensure

the wound is clean and there are no remnants of the barb or other bacteria which could cause infection. Also in certain situations, depending on the type of stingray, an antivenom may be necessary to save the victim.

[Closing shot: Back to original shot with serene music and coral reef scene]

Narrator voice over:

Beneath the waves, a world completely different from our thrives. Although stingrays glide with beauty, it is important to remember the delicate balance between our world and theirs. The moment you enter the water it is important to exercise caution and respect the creatures of the oceans. In order to avoid becoming the next stingray victim, shuffle your feet as you walk and evaluate each step you take. Stingrays are graceful and beautiful, but require our utmost respect.