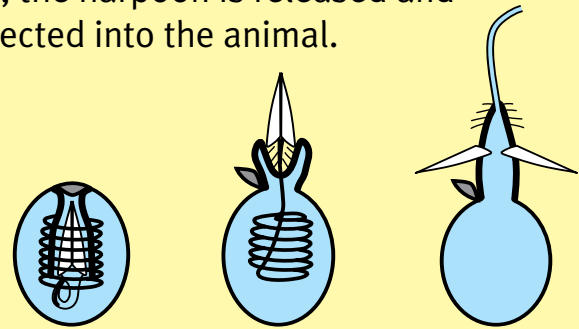


Cnidarians (sea jellies, sea anemones and corals) have specialised stinging cells called 'nematocysts', which aid in the capture of prey and in defence. They are located along the tentacles of the animals and are produced continually.

## MATERIALS

Adhesive tape  
Ping-pong ball  
Balloon  
30 cm string  
Scissors

Inside the stinging cell is a tiny harpoon-like mechanism that lies coiled up like a spring. When something comes in contact with the stinging cell, the harpoon is released and venom is injected into the animal.



Follow the instructions below to make your own *Model Stinging Cell*.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use a small piece of tape to stick a ping-pong ball onto the round end of the balloon.
2. On the opposite side of the ball, use another piece of tape to secure one end of the piece of string.
3. Wind the string tightly around the middle of the ball and hold it in place while you half inflate the balloon with air.
4. Insert the ball and string into the end of the balloon and let the balloon deflate. If you push hard enough, the balloon will deflate onto the ping-pong ball and hold the string inside.
5. You have made a model of a loaded nematocyst. To fire it, blow hard into the balloon and the 'sting' will fire out, uncoiling as it goes. (Real nematocysts are filled with water, not air).

