Bites and stings



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Bites and stings



A short course to learn how to help someone who has just been bitten or stung.

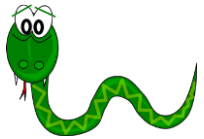
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Learning outcomes

- I can identify when a casualty is having an allergic reaction to a bite or sting
- I can provide first aid treatment for a casualty who has been bitten or stung
- I can seek medical help if required

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Bites



- Bites or stings in the mouth or throat are potentially dangerous because swelling can obstruct the airway
- Bites from some snakes, spiders and mosquitoes can cause serious illness, and may be fatal
- Ticks are tiny creatures that attach to animals and humans to bite into the skin to suck blood, they carry disease, so should be removed as soon as possible
- Be alert and watch for signs of an allergic reaction, which may lead the casualty to suffer **anaphylactic shock**

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Stings



- Stings are painful and can also be dangerous, scorpion and jellyfish stings can be fatal
- An initial sharp pain is followed by swelling, redness and soreness, venomous creatures may produce a lot of pain and swelling
- Multiple insect stings can produce a serious reaction
- A sting in the mouth or throat is potentially dangerous because swelling can obstruct the airway
- With any sting it is important to watch for signs of an allergic reaction, which can lead to **anaphylactic shock**

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Bites A21

Question:

- Name 5 things that could bite you

Question:

- What sort of injury could you get from a bite? (consider the teeth in the pictures opposite to get an idea)

*See worksheet on slide 19



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Stings

Answer and discuss the following:

- Name 5 things that could sting you
- Describe what it might feel like to be stung
- What might it look like when you have been stung?



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What can go wrong?

Allergic Reaction

- An allergic reaction can occur from a bite or sting. This can be really dangerous for the casualty. It may cause problems with their airway and breathing.
- If there are any other signs of a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) you should seek urgent medical attention.

Infection

- Bites from sharp teeth can cause deep puncture wounds that can damage tissues and put germs inside of the body.
- Any bite that breaks the skin needs urgent medical attention.



Q: What are the signs of an allergic reaction?

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Signs of an allergic reaction…

How many of these answers did you get?

Swelling of hands, face, lips, tongue etc. 2

Rapid pulse 3

Rash 1

Difficulty breathing 3

Feeling dizzy 2

Feeling sick 2

Abdominal pain 3

Itching 1



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Your turn: Severe allergic reaction

1. **Call 999/112**



- tell them you think someone is having an allergic reaction

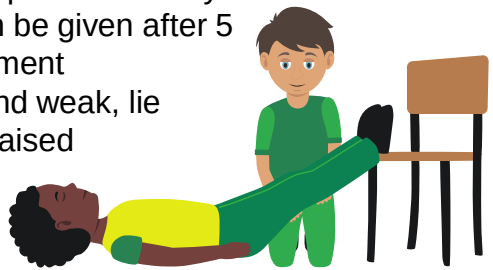
2. **Ask the casualty if they have an injection with them**



- people with allergies often carry an injection of adrenaline (autoinjector) with them; if so help them use it
- help the casualty to sit in a position which helps their breathing

3. **Keep checking their breathing and keep them calm**

- look at their breathing and listen for any changes
- reassure them that help is on the way
- a second injection can be given after 5 minutes if no improvement
- if they become pale and weak, lie them down with legs raised



4. **Stay with them**

- **Remember:** your casualty could become unresponsive. Be prepared to start CPR

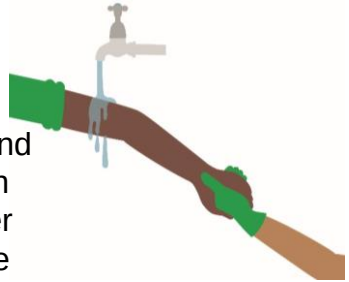
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Your turn: Treating bites

1. **Reassure the casualty**
   - Help them to sit or lie down



2. **Clean**
   - Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water to minimise the risk of infection



3. **Raise and Support the wound**
   - Then pat dry with clean gauze swabs

4. **Cover bite**
   - Use a sterile wound dressing



5. **Extra help**
   - If the wound is large or deep arrange for the casualty to be taken to hospital
   - For other bites that pierce the skin seek medical advice

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Your turn: Treating stings

1. **Reassure the casualty**

➤ Help them to sit or lie down



2. **Remove the sting**

➤ If a sting is visible, brush or scrape it sideways with the edge of a card or your fingernail

3. **Raise affected area**

➤ Apply a c
compres
minimise



4. **Keep cold compress in place for at least 10 minutes.**

➤ Monitor vital signs and watch for signs of an allergic reaction e.g. wheezing and/or itchy, swollen, red skin

5. **Call 999 or 112**

➤ If casualty shows signs of severe allergic reaction

➤ **Remember: Your casualty could become unresponsive. Be prepared to perform CPR**

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Your turn: Treating tick bites

1. **Reassure the casual**
   - Help them sit or lie down



2. **Remove the tick**
   - Using tweezers, grasp ticks head as close to casualty's skin as you can

3. **Gently pull head upwards**
   - Using steady even pressure.
   - Do not jerk the tick as it may leave the mouth parts embedded

4. **Save the tick**
   - Keep the tick for identification
   - Place it in a sealed plastic bag and give to the casualty

5. **Seek medical advice**
   - The casualty should take the tick with them as it may be required for analysis

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Check your learning



I am able to:

- **Identify when someone is having an allergic reaction to a bite or a sting**
- **Give first aid for a bite or a sting**
- **Call for help correctly, if it is necessary**

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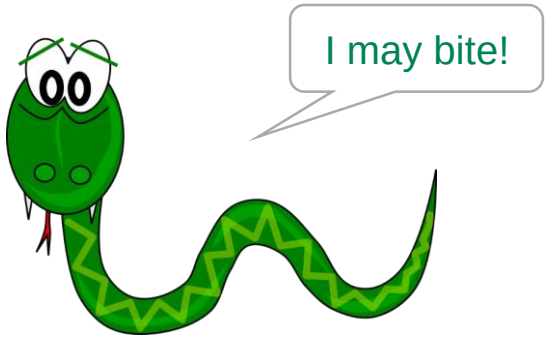
Thank you!

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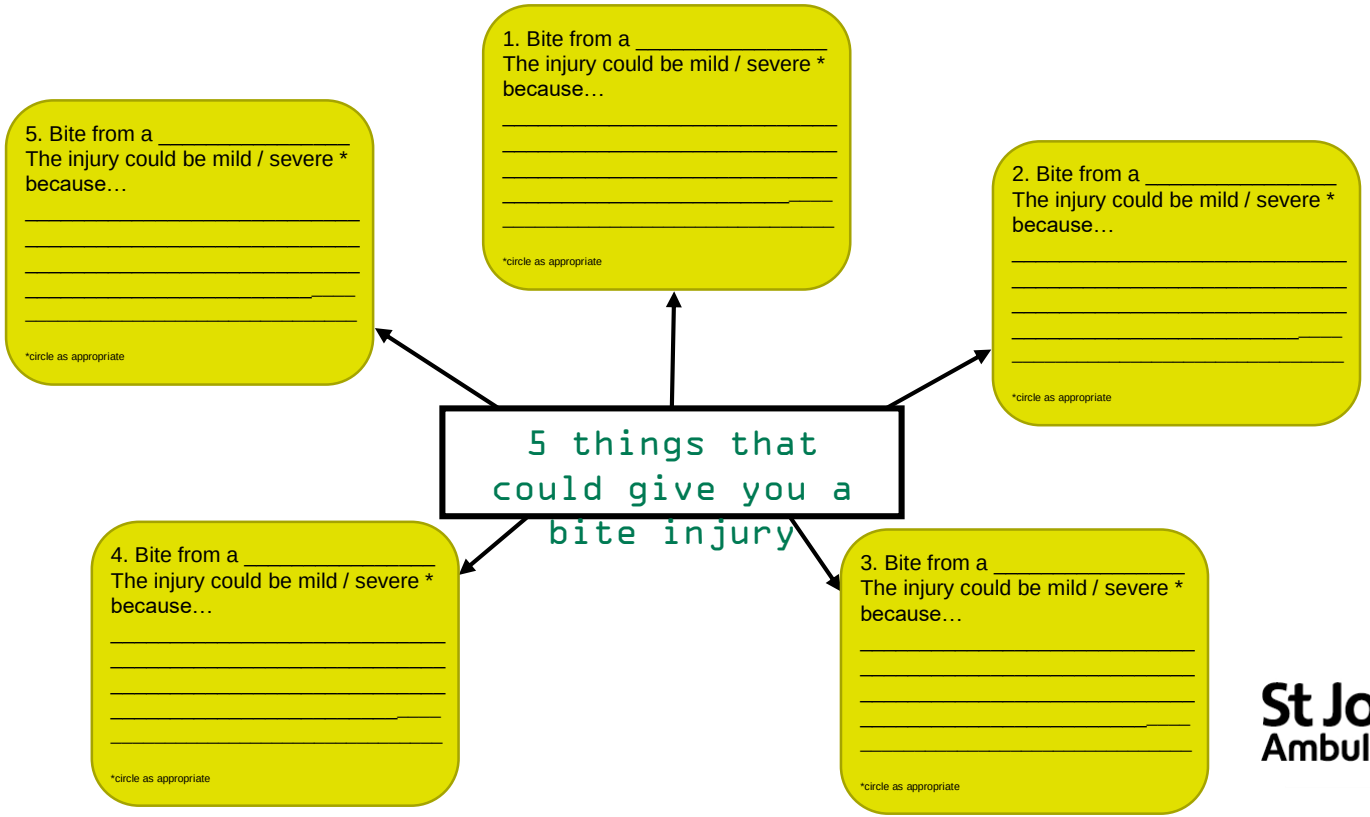
Activity A20
Bites and stings charades





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Activity A21
Causes of a bite injury



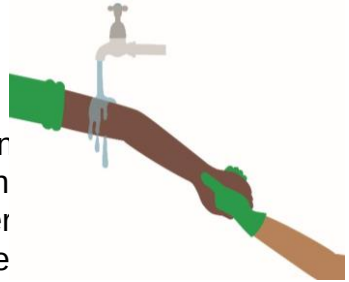
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