



STINGRAYS

ORDER: BATOIDEA

DID YOU KNOW?

A group of stingrays is called a 'fever'.

Many stingrays like to live by themselves but will gather together for feeding, breeding and migration.

WHERE AT AQWA?

Search for stingrays in our Shipwreck Coast, Far North, Perth Coast and outdoor exhibits

SIZE: <400CM

DIET: FISH, CRABS, PRAWNS, MUSSELS

MAIN PREDATOR: SHARKS, SEALS, SEA LIONS

HABITAT: SHALLOW SEA FLOOR <60M

FOUND: WORLD WIDE - TROPICAL, SUBTROPICAL

STING IN THE TAIL!

Stingrays have a barbed, venomous spine located on their tail. Stingrays don't attack with their 'sting', but if provoked will use their barb out of defence. To do this, they raise their tail up and then flick it like a whip, causing their barb to pierce anything in close range. Stings are painful, but usually not fatal.

FLAT SHARK?

A close relative of the shark, stingrays have skeletons composed of cartilage. They are distinguished from sharks by a flattened body, which varies from circular to diamond-like in shape.

The largest stingrays in the world are the smooth stingrays and they can reach 4m in length and weigh over 350kg! Comparatively, stingarees are a family of tiny stingrays, with some reaching just 30cm.

DAILY GRIND

Stingrays have flat grinding teeth like a fine-toothed comb, which they use to crush food such as crabs, mussels and squid. A stingray's mouth is underneath its body, helping it to slurp up food from the sea floor!

FLYING FORWARDS OR WAVING BACKWARDS

To propel themselves through the water stingrays such as eagle rays 'flap' their fins like a bird. Other stingrays, such as the smooth ray, move their fins in a wave-like motion and can swim backwards!

HIDE AND SEEK

You can find stingrays in warm shallow water. They spend most of their time near the sea floor and will hide buried underneath the sand. In Perth, you are most likely to see stingrays in shallow coastal areas. Shuffling your feet as you wade in the water will give any stingrays hidden nearby, enough warning to swim away.