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Certainly no creature in the sea is odder than the common sea cucumber. All living creature , especially human beings , have their peculiarities , but everything about the little sea cucumber seems unusual. What else can be said about a bizarre animal that , among other eccentricities , eats mud , feeds almost continuously day and night but can live without eating for long periods , and can be poisonous but is considered supremely edible by gourmets ? For some fifty million years , despite all its eccentricities , the sea cucumber has subsisted on its diet of mud. It is adaptable enough to live attached to rocks by its tube feet , under rocks in shallow water , or on the surface of mud flats. Common in cool water on both Atlantic and Pacific shores , it has the ability to suck up mud or sand and digest whatever nutrients are present. Sea cucumbers come in a variety of colors , ranging from black to reddish brown to sand color and nearly white. One form even has vivid purple tentacles. Usually the creatures are cucumber shaped-hence their name-and because they are typically rock inhabitants , this shape , combined with flexibility , enables them to squeeze into crevices where they are safe from predators and ocean currents. Although they have voracious appetites , eating day and night , sea cucumbers have the capacity to become quiescent and live at a low metabolic rate-feeding sparingly or not at all for long periods , so that the marine

organisms that provide their food have a chance to multiply. If it were not for this faculty , they would devour all the food available in a short time and would probably starve themselves out of existence. But the most spectacular thing about the sea cucumber is the way it defends itself. Its major enemies are fish and crabs , when attacked , it squirts all its internal organs into water. It also casts off attached structures such as tentacles. The sea cucumber will eviscerate and regenerate itself if it is attacked or even touched ; it will do the same if the surrounding water temperature is too high or if the water becomes too polluted.

1. According to the passage , why is the shape of sea cucumbers important ? A. It helps them to digest their food. B. It helps them to protect themselves from danger. C. It makes it easier for them to move through the mud. D. It makes them attractive to fish.

2. The fourth paragraph of the passage primarily discusses_____. A. the reproduction of sea cucumbers B. the food sources of sea cucumbers C. the eating habits of sea cucumbers D. threats to sea cucumbers existence

3. What can be inferred about the defence mechanisms of the sea cucumber ? A. They are very sensitive to surrounding stimuli. B. They are almost useless. C. They require group cooperation. D. They are similar to those of most sea creatures.

4. Which of the following would NOT cause a sea cucumber to release its internal organs into the water ? A. A touch B. Food C. Unusually warm water D. Pollution.

1. B) 通过阅读文章可以排除选项A、 C、 D , 因为文中没有提及 , 故选项B为正确答案。 2. C) 此题为段落主旨题。通过阅读第四段可知作者都是讲述海参的进食习惯 , 故选项C为正确答案。 3. A)

此题为推论题。根据最后一段可知海参在受到外界刺激时，会做出一定的反应，这也反映出它的防御机制非常敏感，故A为正确答案。4. B) 此题为细节题。根据最后一段可知惟有food不会使海参将体内器官吐出来，故其为正确答案。

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