

Day 1

Grade 3

LEVEL 13, UNIT 11
INFORMATIONAL TEXT

The Clownfish's Poisonous Home

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KEY VOCABULARY

- **tentacles** (noun) A tentacle is a long, flexible body part for grabbing.
- **prey** (noun) Prey is an animal that is hunted and eaten by another.
- **consume** (verb) To consume is to eat, drink, or use.
- **skirting** (verb) To skirt is to lightly touch.
- **dart** (verb) To dart is to move suddenly.

The clownfish is a cheerful-looking little fish. Most are bright orange with three up-and-down white stripes outlined in black. These fish have a strange home. They prefer living among the long arms, called **tentacles**, of certain sea **anemones**. These tentacles have sharp tips filled with poison. Anemones use their tentacles to protect themselves and catch **prey** to eat. Their sting is strong enough to kill small fish.

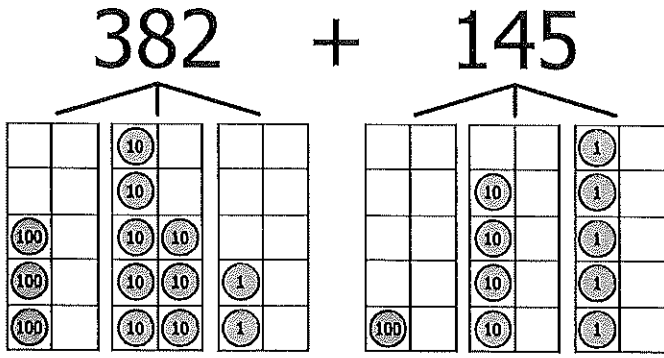
Clownfish are small fish. Yet they stay safe among the anemone's tentacles. They don't seem to get stung. **Scientists** think this is because a clownfish's scales are covered with a thin layer of slime. This slime seems to keep the anemone from stinging.

Living together works out well for both animals. The clownfish eats the anemone's leftovers. It gets fed while keeping the anemone clean. The anemone protects the clownfish. Clownfish are poor swimmers and would be easy prey out on their own. They constantly move around, **skirting** and staying away from the anemone's tentacles. Clownfish also protect the anemone. They dart out and chase away butterfly fish and other fish that like to nibble on and eat the tentacles.

The clownfish and the anemone are not exactly friends. But they do help each other out!

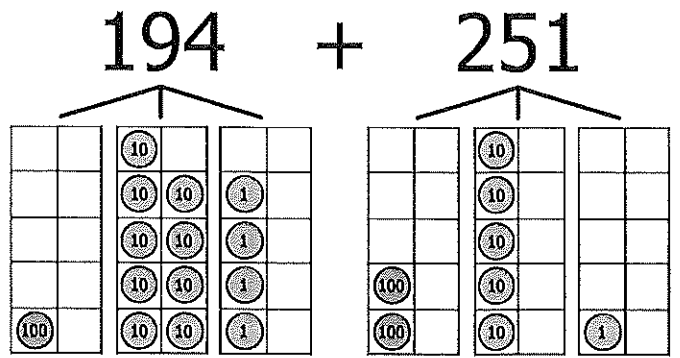
- ▶ Why doesn't a clownfish get stung by a sea anemone's tentacles?
- ▶ Find evidence in the passage to support this statement: "Living together works out well for both animals."
- ▶ Draw and label a diagram that shows how a clownfish and a sea anemone help each other.
- ▶ How is the relationship between clownfish and sea anemones similar to the relationship between humans and dogs?
- ▶ Do you agree that the "clownfish and the anemone are not exactly friends"? Why or why not?
- ▶ Imagine you are a clownfish. Write about or discuss a typical day in your life.

A.



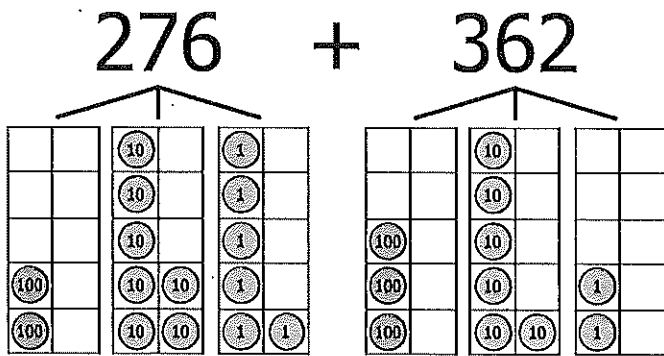
$$\begin{array}{r} 300 + 100 = 400 \\ 80 + 40 = 120 \\ 2 + 5 = 7 \\ \hline 400 + 120 + 7 = 527 \end{array}$$

B.



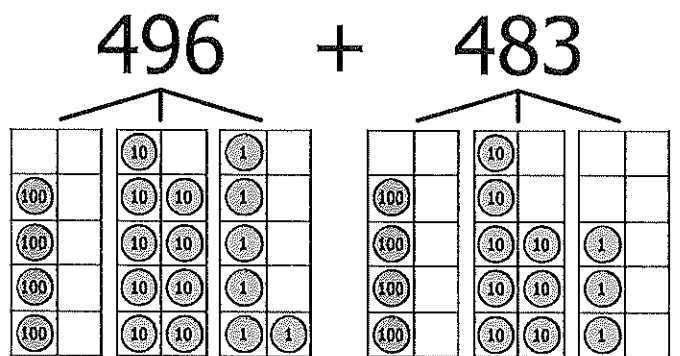
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C.



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D.



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