TOPIC: Bites and Stings

Take our online quiz:

[Click here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-zfQkRRH6E-whGjAg7gZP2dRY83Tu39Kn6dJ9wJmFc5UNjZZSzdKT1A3RThFSElIRkZTVk9HRUhZRy4u)

The recommended learning age for this topic is 7 –14 years.
At the end of this topic the learner may be able to:

* ensure the safety of themselves and others
* assess a casualty’s condition calmly and identify an allergic reaction to a bite or sting
* comfort and reassure a casualty who has been bitten or stung
* seek medical help if required

Link to this topic on our website:

[Click here](https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/key-stage-first-aid-lesson-plans/key-stage-2-first-aid-lesson-plans/ks2-bites-and-stings-first-aid-lesson-plan-and-teaching-resources/)

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Section 1: Understanding about bites and stings

Resources and guidance for this session:
**PowerPoint slides:** numbers4-7

**Activity:** printed copies ofA21 and A20 sheets (optional activity based on numbers of learners)

* Slides 4 and 5 aim to help the learner understand basic information about bites and stings. They emphasise that a serious allergic reaction could occur, and this could be life threatening. It is also stressed that if swelling occurs in the airway then it will be difficult for the casualty to breathe
* Using slide 6 and 7 ask the learner to think of 5 things that could cause a bite or sting injury. Use **worksheet A21** to collate answers and ask open questions to get the learner to consider the impact of the bite and sting, ask for descriptions regarding what the wound could look like e.g. would it be large or deep? Would there be minor or severe bleeding?
* How would bites differ depending on origin of bite? What would the casualty feel? Use images on the screen to support the discussion.
* Looking at the slide, have an open discussion on what safety measures could be put in place to reduce risk of harm to themselves or others e.g. making sure that a dog is secured, do not touch beehives or nests.

**Activity:** Bites and stings charades (optional activity depending on number of learners) printed copy of A20

* In pairs (or small groups) hand out the cards that identify the cause of a bite or sting. One person must then imitate, non-verbally, the cause to the other(s), and they must try to guess what it is. Once done so, they must decide if it bites or stings.

Note: You will need to print out the cards for the animals or insects that can bite or sting. You can also print out the bubbles that identify if it will cause a bite or a sting.

Section 2: What can go wrong?

Resources and guidance you will need for this session:

**PowerPoint slides:** numbers9-15

* Provide your learner with an understanding that a bite or sting can cause sometimes some further complications. Explain that infections can occur because of a bite/sting and a tetanus injection may be required (consider rabies injection also) for puncture wounds of skin. Note, they tend not to offer a tetanus injection IF the person is up to date with their immunisations because it is included in the program of injections.
* Explain that allergic reactions can sometimes occur and be severe or life threatening (anaphylaxis) and a casualty should be monitored in case they show signs of a reaction (further learning regarding this is available on allergies topic SJA schools first aid sessions).
* Please note signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction can be swelling, redness, feeling faint, nausea, stomach pains, wheezing and difficulty breathing.

**Activity:** printed copies of your turn sheet for severe allergic reaction slides 11-14, bites, stings, tick bites.

* Use the slides and Your turn sheets to help demonstrate the skills needed for dealing with an animal/human bite and an insect bite/sting.
* The learner should then have a turn and use key steps to simulate looking after a casualty. Ensure that they remember to reassure the casualty and use decision making skills and rationale to decide if their casualty needs to seek medical attention.
* Using the Check my learning slide 15 can help determine the level of skills and confidence gained, by asking the learner to score outcomes.

**Quiz:** Ask the learner questions from the quiz below:

1. Name 5 things that can bite or sting
2. What is the difference between and bite or sting?

**Ans:** A bite is usually caused by the mouth part of a creature whereas a sting is an attack with a stinger, barbs or other spikey body part. A sting or bite may contain venom.

1. What is the most important thing and something you must always do first, before helping a casualty?

**Ans:** Check for danger or hazards, make sure the area is safe

1. What is a severe allergic reaction called? And how does it present?

**Ans:** Anaphylaxis - swelling, redness, feeling faint, nausea, stomach pains, wheezing and difficulty breathing.

1. Which number(s) would you ring to get emergency help?

**Ans:** 999 or 112