

# Four of the most dangerous Australian animals

## IDENTITY

### The redback spider

It is one of the deadliest spiders in the world. They are very common in Australia, especially in urban areas – they love human company!

**(Not so) fun fact:**  
If they bite you, you have three hours to get to a hospital...



## BODY COUNT

In fact, thanks to the anti-venom (found in 1979), redback spiders rarely kill. They actually haven't killed anyone since 1979... which doesn't mean they haven't bitten!

## IDENTITY

### The crocodile

There are two species of crocodiles: freshwater crocodiles and saltwater crocodiles. Saltwater crocs are the biggest, heaviest and most dangerous, and can even be found off beaches!

**(Not so) fun fact:** To kill their victims, crocodiles drag them under water and drown them.

## BODY COUNT

There are no more than two deaths per year.



### The great white shark

About 180 species of sharks inhabit the deep waters around Australia. The largest, strongest and most ferocious is the great white shark.

**Fun fact:**  
sharks need to swim, or they will sink!



959 shark attacks have happened in Australia since 1791, but "only" 227 have been fatal.



### The box jellyfish

It is one of the most lethal jellyfish – a person can go into cardiac arrest within minutes.

**Fun fact:** It has 15 tentacles (3 meters long), 24 eyes, and... 4 brains!



The box jellyfish has stung 64 people to death since 1884.



Source : 'E for English 4<sup>ème</sup>', éditions Didier

## 1. Complete the grid below with information from the texts.

ANIMALS	DESCRIPTION	HABITAT	ABILITIES	DEGREE OF DANGER (+++)	BODY COUNT (NUMBER OF VICTIMS)
THE REDBACK SPIDER					
THE CROCODILE					
THE GREAT WHITE SHARK					
THE BOX JELLYFISH					

## 2. Do you understand why they have these names?

a. The redback spider is called this way because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. The saltwater crocodile is called this way because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. The great white shark is called this way because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bonus : The box jellyfish gets its name from the cube-like shape of its bell (*a bell = une cloche mais ici une ombrelle*)

## 3. Look at the adjectives you have spotted and classify them logically.

ANIMALS		
THE REDBACK SPIDER	_____	X
THE CROCODILE	the biggest, _____	the most dangerous
THE GREAT WHITE SHARK	_____	_____
THE BOX JELLYFISH	X	_____

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THE BOX JELLYFISH	X	_____