Sea Anemone

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Sea anemones are a predatory species of animal that usually spends its life stationary. The name of this animal is based off a terrestrial flower. They are closely related to coral, jellyfish, tube-dwelling anemones and hydra.

The oral disc and tentacles surround the mouth of the anemone. The tentacles also have cnidocytes, which are cells that work as a defense as well as participate in capturing prey. The cnidocytes encompass a poison that is a combination of toxins, which includes a neurotoxin. This paralyzes the prey and allows for the anemone to move the prey to the mouth for digestion. This neurotoxin allows for them to hunt prey larger, also they have large polyps that provide for digestion of larger prey. The polyp is attached to the bottom and also known as the adhesive foot. They generally eat small fish and shrimp. The anemone's toxins do not affect clown fish, thus they tend to hide from predators in the tentacles of sea anemones. Depending on the various kind of anemone the number of tentacles vary from tens to a few hundred. This is a good place for small fish to seclude themselves from predators.

Some anemones are pelagic, this means that they aren't attached at the bottom to anything stationary. They have a gas chamber within, what is known as, the pedal disc. Instead of being stationary they float upside down in the water. Although most anemones aren't a free swimming species, if their environment becomes threatened, they can detach themselves and swim to a new location.

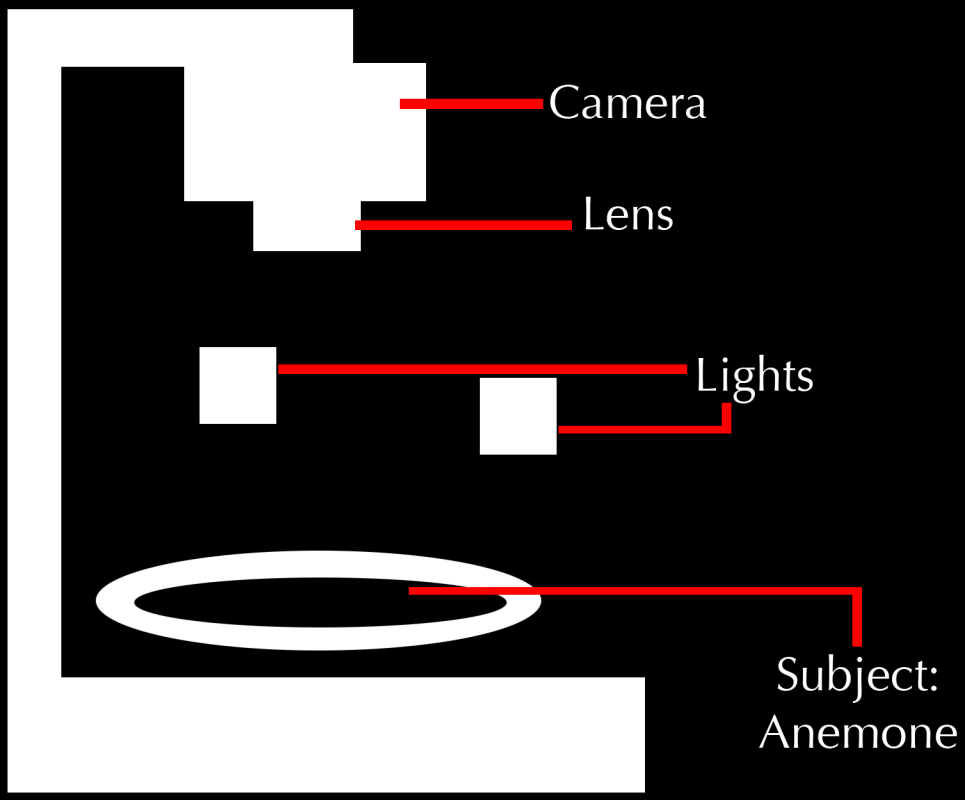
Images

Side shot 1

Top Shot-Tentacles/Mouth

Bottom Shot-Pedal disc

Side shot 2



Light box

These images were shot with a very basic light set up. Lights were set up from the side and above

Equipment:

- Nikon D300
- Macro 105 lens
- Light table
- Black cloth
- Fiber optic lights