

Name: _____

The Clever Octopus

By Belinda Vickers Givens



What do you think of when you picture an octopus? A scary sea creature? A shy underwater animal hiding in dark cracks and crevices? An underwater magician that escapes predators in a cloud of ink? Let's learn what octopuses are really



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preferred options.

Octopuses live in all the oceans of the world but are most commonly found in warm tropical water. Octopuses do not have backbones and are therefore classified as invertebrates. Because they do not have backbones, they

can quickly change the shape of their bodies. This incredible skill allows them to move freely into tight spaces which makes it easier for them to hide from predators. When they are not able to scurry away from their predators fast enough, they camouflage themselves to blend in with their

surroundings. They can change their color to gray, brown, green, blue, or even pink! This serves as a way for them to quickly ward off threats.

Another defense mechanism that octopuses use is their ability to shoot out streams of ink. The ink causes the water to turn dark, which confuses predators and gives the octopus an opportunity to flee. Octopuses are closely related to squid, which also use ink as a defense tactic. Scientists have recently discovered that all octopuses are venomous; this helps explain how they hunt and kill their prey.

Unlike most animals, octopuses have the ability to regenerate limbs that are lost. This gives them an advantage because if a limb is lost in battle while defending themselves from predators, it grows back! That's a



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1. Based on the information you read in the article, where do octopuses live?
 - a. Indian Ocean
 - b. Pacific Ocean
 - c. Caribbean Sea
 - d. all of these



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4. Which of the following is a recent discovery scientists have made about octopuses?
 - a. Octopuses do not have a backbone.
 - b. Octopuses are venomous.
 - c. Octopuses can live for one hundred years.
 - d. Octopuses migrate thousands of miles.

5. Identify one way an octopus uses its limbs.

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The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



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4. _____

g e r t e n a e r e

hint: regrow

5. _____

m o u a c g e f l a

hint: the ability to blend in with one's surroundings

6. _____

s t a p e r o d r

hint: animals that prey on other animals

7. _____

e m v u a r n e

hint: move around carefully and skillfully

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In the article, "The Clever Octopus," you learned many interesting facts about this clever sea creature that lives in all the oceans of the world. One of the facts you learned is that the octopus is closely related to the squid.

On the lines below, write about three similarities between octopuses and squid. Write



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5. Identify one way an octopus uses its limbs. **Answers may vary.**

An octopus uses its limbs to maneuver around the
ocean floor.

The Clever Octopus



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7. maneuver

hint: animals that prey on other animals

e m v u a r n e

hint: move around carefully and skillfully