

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Amazing Octopus

The octopus is one of the largest, fastest and most intelligent of all invertebrates. They don't have a back bone or vertebral column. The octopus can be found in salt water and in all the oceans. They have big bulbous head, large eyes, and eight distinctive arms. These arms are located around their mouth and have suckers on the bottom. They use these arms and suckers for gripping the prey.



They have sensory receptors at the bottom of their suckers that enable them to taste whatever they touch. They have excellent eyesight, but are deaf.

They are boneless creatures. This makes their bodies very flexible and they can squeeze through extremely small spaces and cracks. They live in holes or crevices of rocks.

They are usually a bottom dweller. However, as they hatch from the eggs, the young ones swim to the surface and float among the plankton for a few months until they're ready to sink to the seabed and begin their life as an adult.

They can grow to about 4.3 feet (1.3 meters) in length and weigh up to 22 pounds (10 kilograms), although averages are much smaller. The world's largest octopus species is the Giant Pacific Octopus which can grow as large as 23 feet. Blue-ringed octopus is one of the most poisonous aquatic creatures. Despite being small in size, its venom can kill a human being.

They are nocturnal. They are active at night and hunt for their favorite food like crabs, other mollusks and crayfish.

Unlike human beings with one heart, octopus has three hearts. Two hearts pump blood through the gills whereas the third one pumps blood through rest of the body. The color of octopus blood is blue and not red.

The most amazing octopus fact is that they have a number of defense mechanisms. They are preyed upon by sharks, dolphins, and eels. But, with the help of pigment cells and specialized muscles in their skin, they can instantly change their appearance. It is difficult for the predators to find them as they match the colors, textures and patterns of their surroundings. This ability to blend with the environment makes them the master of camouflage.

If the predators are lucky enough to find them, they will release a cloud of black ink to obscure its attacker's view, giving them time to swim away. The ink contains a substance that reduces a predator's sense of smell, making the escaping octopus harder to track.



Moreover, if the octopus is in trouble, it can break off one of its arms. The arm will then change the color and wriggle around the water to distract the predator. But what will an octopus do without one arm? Don't worry though; the octopus will regrow the arm later and without any permanent damage.

THE AMAZING OCTOPUS



1. How does the octopus catch its prey?

2. Why are their bodies very flexible?

3. What are the octopus defense mechanisms?

4. Octopus has how many hearts and what is the colour of its blood?

5. Which is the world's largest octopus?

6. Name the most poisonous octopus.

Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the complete word on the line. Make sure your spellings are correct.

1. ___ v ___ t ___ r a ___
Hint: animal without a backbone

2. ___ t ___ ll ___
Hint: smart, intellectual

3. ___ m ___ fl ___
Hint: ability to blend with the environment

4. ___ e ___ t o ___
Hint: animals that hunt other animals

5. ___ c ___ r n ___
Hint: active at night

6. ___ e ___ t
Hint: body part that pumps blood

7. ___ i ___ n o ___
Hint: toxic, which can kill

8. ___ r ___ n e ___
Hint: lasting, stable



THE AMAZING OCTOPUS - ANSWER KEY

1. How does the octopus catch its prey?

The octopus catches its prey with its arms and suckers.

2. Why are their bodies very flexible?

Their bodies are flexible because they don't have any bones in their bodies.

3. What are the octopus defense mechanisms?

The octopus has number of defense mechanisms. Firstly, they can instantly change their appearance and match the colors of their surroundings. Secondly, they can release a cloud of black ink to obscure its attacker's view. They can also break off one of their arms to distract the predators.

4. Octopus has how many hearts and what is the colour of its blood?

Octopus has three hearts and the color of its blood is blue.

5. Which is the world's largest octopus?

Giant Pacific Octopus is the world's largest octopus.

6. Name the most poisonous octopus.

Blue-ringed octopus is the most poisonous octopus.

Vocabulary Activity- ANSWER KEY

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the complete word on the line. Make sure your spellings are correct.

1. invertebrate invertebrate
Hint: animal without a backbone
2. intelligent intelligent
Hint: smart, intellectual
3. camouflage camouflage
Hint: ability to blend with the environment
4. predators predators
Hint: animals that hunt other animals
5. nocturnal nocturnal
Hint: active at night
6. heart heart
Hint: body part that pumps blood
7. poisonous poisonous
Hint: toxic, which can kill
8. permanent permanent
Hint: lasting, stable