

All about octopuses

An octopus is a soft sea animal with eight long arms and no bones. It has three hearts and blue blood.

It can change colour to hide, and it squirts dark ink to escape.

Octopuses live in every ocean and like to eat crabs.

Quick facts

Arms	8
Hearts	3
Blood	blue
Bones	none
Lives	in the sea
Eats	crabs

Key words

arms: the long parts an octopus moves and grabs with

ink: a dark cloud it squirts to hide

den: an octopus's hiding home

suckers: round cups on the arms that grip

beak: the hard mouth of an octopus

Wow!

Three hearts

An octopus has three hearts.

Blue blood

Its blood is blue.

Squeezy!

It has no bones, so it can squeeze through tiny gaps.

Ink

It squirts dark ink to get away.

Draw an octopus hiding in its den.

Octopuses

Use the words in the box to fill the gaps. Each word is used once.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 6

Word bank arms blue colour crabs hearts ink

1. An octopus likes to eat _____.
2. An octopus can squirt _____ to hide.
3. An octopus has eight _____.
4. An octopus has three _____.
5. An octopus can change its _____ to hide.
6. Octopus blood is _____.

Octopuses

Read each sentence. Circle True or False.

Name _____

Date _____

Score _____ / 6

1. Octopus blood is blue.
2. An octopus can squirt ink.
3. An octopus lives in a tree.
4. An octopus can change colour.
5. An octopus has only one heart.
6. An octopus has lots of bones.

True

False

True

False

True

False

True

False

True

False

True

False

Octopus word match

Write the letter of the right meaning in each box.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 5

☐

arms

A round cups on the arms that grip

☐

suckers

B the hard mouth of an octopus

☐

beak

C an octopus's hiding home

☐

den

D the long parts an octopus moves
and grabs with

☐

ink

E a dark cloud it squirts to hide

Did you know? Octopuses

Read the facts. Then draw your own octopus, hiding in its den.

Name _____ Date _____

Coconut homes

The veined octopus carries coconut shells to hide in.

Copycat

The mimic octopus pretends to be a lionfish or a sea snake.

Tasting with arms

The suckers can taste what they touch.

Blue blood

Octopus blood is blue because it contains copper.

Draw it here

Write about your drawing.

Octopus words

Find each word and tick it off. The words go across and down.

Name _____ Date _____ Found _____ / 8

s	u	c	k	e	r	s	f
c	b	l	u	e	h	y	n
r	n	t	l	s	e	a	x
a	r	m	s	v	a	r	d
b	e	y	e	s	r	j	e
s	w	r	q	j	t	j	g
c	n	i	q	z	s	e	g
e	t	d	o	y	s	z	s

- ☐ arms ☐ blue ☐ crab ☐ eggs ☐ eyes ☐ hearts
☐ sea ☐ suckers

What's the mystery picture?

Work out each sum. Find the answer in the key and colour the square that colour.

3  light blue
 4  black
 5  sand
 8  leave white
 9  pink
 10  purple

1 + 2	2 + 1	2 + 1	2 + 1	2 + 1	1 + 2	1 + 2	2 + 1	1 + 2	1 + 2	2 + 1	2 + 1	2 + 1	2 + 1
1 + 2	2 + 1	1 + 2	2 + 1	9 + 1	7 + 3	6 + 4	9 + 1	9 + 1	6 + 4	2 + 1	2 + 1	1 + 2	2 + 1
2 + 1	2 + 1	1 + 2	1 + 9	1 + 9	7 + 3	3 + 7	1 + 9	7 + 3	6 + 4	1 + 9	1 + 2	1 + 2	1 + 2
1 + 2	2 + 1	6 + 4	4 + 6	5 + 5	7 + 3	4 + 6	9 + 1	7 + 3	5 + 5	8 + 2	5 + 5	1 + 2	2 + 1
2 + 1	1 + 2	1 + 9	7 + 3	6 + 2	2 + 6	2 + 8	3 + 7	3 + 5	5 + 3	9 + 1	2 + 8	2 + 1	2 + 1
2 + 1	1 + 2	8 + 2	6 + 4	7 + 1	1 + 3	3 + 7	3 + 7	2 + 6	2 + 2	8 + 2	3 + 7	2 + 1	2 + 1
1 + 2	1 + 2	6 + 4	5 + 5	5 + 5	3 + 7	2 + 8	4 + 6	8 + 2	2 + 8	5 + 5	6 + 4	2 + 1	2 + 1
2 + 1	2 + 1	5 + 5	9 + 1	4 + 6	7 + 3	6 + 3	3 + 6	3 + 7	8 + 2	7 + 3	7 + 3	1 + 2	1 + 2
1 + 2	1 + 2	1 + 2	6 + 4	6 + 4	8 + 2	2 + 8	4 + 6	3 + 7	9 + 1	7 + 3	2 + 1	1 + 2	2 + 1
2 + 1	2 + 1	3 + 7	1 + 9	1 + 9	5 + 5	8 + 2	5 + 5	7 + 3	6 + 4	2 + 8	3 + 7	2 + 1	1 + 2
2 + 1	2 + 8	3 + 7	7 + 3	2 + 8	5 + 5	8 + 2	8 + 2	2 + 8	7 + 3	1 + 9	4 + 6	5 + 5	1 + 2
8 + 2	7 + 3	2 + 1	5 + 5	9 + 1	1 + 2	5 + 5	7 + 3	2 + 1	3 + 7	4 + 6	1 + 2	7 + 3	5 + 5
3 + 7	2 + 1	1 + 2	6 + 4	1 + 2	1 + 2	5 + 5	1 + 2	2 + 1	7 + 3	1 + 2	2 + 1	1 + 9	1 + 2
7 + 3	2 + 1	2 + 1	8 + 2	2 + 1	2 + 1	2 + 8	1 + 2	2 + 1	4 + 6	1 + 2	1 + 2	5 + 5	2 + 1
2 + 1	5 + 5	1 + 2	1 + 2	4 + 6	1 + 2	2 + 1	3 + 7	2 + 1	2 + 1	4 + 6	1 + 2	2 + 1	5 + 5
2 + 3	3 + 2	1 + 4	2 + 3	4 + 1	4 + 1	1 + 4	4 + 1	1 + 4	3 + 2	2 + 3	3 + 2	1 + 4	4 + 1

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 6

Word bank arms blue colour crabs hearts ink

1. An octopus likes to eat crabs.
2. An octopus can squirt ink to hide.
3. An octopus has eight arms.
4. An octopus has three hearts.
5. An octopus can change its colour to hide.
6. Octopus blood is blue.

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 6

1. Octopus blood is blue.
2. An octopus can squirt ink.
3. An octopus lives in a tree.
4. An octopus can change colour.
5. An octopus has only one heart.
6. An octopus has lots of bones.

☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False☐ True☒ False☒ True☐ False☐ True☒ False☐ True☒ False

Octopus word match

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 5

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| D arms | A round cups on the arms that grip |
| A suckers | B the hard mouth of an octopus |
| B beak | C an octopus's hiding home |
| C den | D the long parts an octopus moves and grabs with |
| E ink | E a dark cloud it squirts to hide |

Octopus words

The hidden words are shaded in red.

s	u	c	k	e	r	s	f
c	b	l	u	e	h	y	n
r	n	t	l	s	e	a	x
a	r	m	s	v	a	r	d
b	e	y	e	s	r	j	e
s	w	r	q	j	t	j	g
c	n	i	q	z	s	e	g
e	t	d	o	y	s	z	s

☐ arms ☐ blue ☐ crab ☐ eggs ☐ eyes ☐ hearts

☐ sea ☐ suckers

It's an octopus!

Here's how the finished picture looks.

3  light blue
 4  black
 5  sand
 8  leave white
 9  pink
 10  purple

1+2	2+1	2+1	2+1	2+1	1+2	1+2	2+1	1+2	1+2	2+1	2+1	2+1	2+1
1+2	2+1	1+2	2+1	9+1	7+3	6+4	9+1	9+1	6+4	2+1	2+1	1+2	2+1
2+1	2+1	1+2	1+9	1+9	7+3	3+7	1+9	7+3	6+4	1+9	1+2	1+2	1+2
1+2	2+1	6+4	4+6	5+5	7+3	4+6	9+1	7+3	5+5	8+2	5+5	1+2	2+1
2+1	1+2	1+9	7+3	6+2	2+6	2+8	3+7	3+5	5+3	9+1	2+8	2+1	2+1
2+1	1+2	8+2	6+4	7+1	1+3	3+7	3+7	2+6	2+3	8+2	3+7	2+1	2+1
1+2	1+2	6+4	5+5	5+5	3+7	2+8	4+6	8+2	2+8	5+5	6+4	2+1	2+1
2+1	2+1	5+5	9+1	4+6	7+3	6+3	3+6	3+7	8+2	7+3	7+3	1+2	1+2
1+2	1+2	1+2	6+4	6+4	8+2	2+8	4+6	3+7	9+1	7+3	2+1	1+2	2+1
2+1	2+1	3+7	1+9	1+9	5+5	8+2	5+5	7+3	6+4	2+8	3+7	2+1	1+2
2+1	2+8	3+7	7+3	2+8	5+5	8+2	8+2	2+8	7+3	1+9	4+6	5+5	1+2
8+2	7+3	2+1	5+5	9+1	1+2	5+5	7+3	2+1	3+7	4+6	1+2	7+3	5+5
3+7	2+1	1+2	6+4	1+2	1+2	5+5	1+2	2+1	7+3	1+2	2+1	1+9	1+2
7+3	2+1	2+1	8+2	2+1	2+1	2+8	1+2	2+1	4+6	1+2	1+2	5+5	2+1
2+1	5+5	1+2	1+2	4+6	1+2	2+1	3+7	2+1	2+1	4+6	1+2	2+1	5+5
2+3	3+2	1+4	2+3	4+1	4+1	1+4	4+1	1+4	3+2	2+3	3+2	1+4	4+1

All about octopuses

Octopuses are clever, soft-bodied sea animals with eight arms covered in suckers. They are molluscs, related to squid and cuttlefish, and there are about 300 kinds.

An octopus has three hearts, blue blood and no bones, so it can squeeze through tiny gaps; the only hard part is its beak. It can change its colour and skin texture in an instant to hide, squirt a cloud of ink to escape, and even taste things with its suckers.

Quick facts

Group	mollusc (cephalopod)
Kinds	about 300
Arms	8
Hearts	3
Blood	blue
Lives	in every ocean
Eats	crabs, shrimps, clams, fish
Life span	often 1 to 2 years
Biggest	giant Pacific octopus

Key words

invertebrate: an animal with no backbone

camouflage: changing colour to blend in

siphon: a tube that squirts water to move fast

mantle: the bag-like body behind the head

suckers: cups on the arms that grip and taste

predator: an animal that hunts other animals

Fun facts

Grow back

An octopus can grow back a lost arm.

Copycat

The mimic octopus pretends to be a lionfish or a sea snake.

Squeezy!

With no bones, only the beak limits how small a gap it fits through.

Three hearts

Two pump blood through the gills and one pumps it around the body.

Coconut homes

The veined octopus carries coconut shells to hide in.

Escape artists

Octopuses have escaped from aquarium tanks.

My favourite fact is...

Octopuses

Use the words in the box to fill the gaps. Each word is used once.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank

arm beak camouflage coconut copper feet ink
Pacific siphon taste

1. An octopus can grow back a lost _____.
2. The giant _____ octopus is the biggest kind.
3. The suckers let an octopus _____ what it touches.
4. An octopus can shoot away by pushing water out of its _____.
5. The veined octopus carries _____ shells to hide in.
6. An octopus squirts a cloud of _____ to escape.
7. The only hard part of an octopus is its _____.
8. Changing colour to blend in is called _____.
9. The name octopus means “eight _____”.
10. Octopus blood is blue because it contains _____.

Octopuses

Read each sentence. Circle True or False.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 8

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Octopuses have strong bones in their arms. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 2. Some octopuses live in rivers. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 3. There are about 300 kinds of octopus. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 4. Some octopuses use coconut shells as shelters. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 5. Octopuses can taste with their suckers. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 6. Most octopuses live for 20 years. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 7. An octopus has three hearts. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 8. An octopus can grow back a lost arm. | ☐ True | ☐ False |

Octopus word match

Write the letter of the right meaning in each box.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

☐

den

A an animal that hunts other animals

☐

siphon

B a tube that squirts water to move fast

☐

predator

C an animal with no backbone

☐

suckers

D cups on the arms that grip and taste

☐

invertebrate

E the bag-like body behind the head

☐

camouflage

F an octopus's hiding place

☐

mantle

G changing colour to blend in

Octopus mini quiz

Fill the gaps using the word bank, then circle True or False.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank **arm** **beak** **Pacific** **siphon** **suckers** **taste**

1. The suckers let an octopus _____ what it touches.
2. An octopus can shoot away by pushing water out of its _____.
3. An octopus can grow back a lost _____.
4. The only hard part of an octopus is its _____.
5. An octopus has eight arms covered in _____.
6. The giant _____ octopus is the biggest kind.

True or false?

7. An octopus has three hearts.
8. Some octopuses use coconut shells as shelters.
9. Most octopuses live for 20 years.
10. Octopuses have strong bones in their arms.

True

False

True

False

True

False

True

False

Octopus words

Find each word and tick it off. The words go across, down and diagonally.

Name _____ Date _____ Found _____ / 12

h	s	q	v	m	o	l	l	u	s	c
a	i	l	n	s	c	s	t	d	p	i
y	p	o	s	d	a	e	l	i	p	j
s	h	c	u	h	m	z	p	i	r	s
g	o	t	c	g	o	v	t	p	e	r
i	n	o	k	h	u	a	c	c	d	m
l	f	p	e	e	f	y	v	j	a	a
l	b	u	r	a	l	y	e	a	t	n
s	i	s	s	r	a	o	n	r	o	t
a	n	c	x	t	g	a	o	m	r	l
k	k	a	e	s	e	c	m	s	f	e

- ☐ arms ☐ camouflage ☐ gills ☐ hearts ☐ ink ☐ mantle
☐ mollusc ☐ octopus ☐ predator ☐ siphon ☐ suckers
☐ venom

What's the mystery picture?

Work out each sum. Find the answer in the key and colour the square that colour.

14  light blue 21  purple 28  leave white 32  sand
35  black 36  pink

7×2	7×2	2×7	7×2	2×7	2×7	2×7	7×2	7×2	2×7	2×7	7×2	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	7×2	2×7	3×7	7×3	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	2×7	2×7	2×7	2×7
2×7	2×7	2×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	7×3	2×7	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×2	7×2
2×7	2×7	7×3	7×3	7×4	7×4	7×3	3×7	4×7	4×7	3×7	3×7	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	7×3	7×3	4×7	7×5	3×7	3×7	4×7	5×7	7×3	7×3	2×7	2×7
2×7	7×2	7×3	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	2×7	7×2
2×7	2×7	3×7	7×3	3×7	7×3	6×6	4×9	7×3	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	2×7	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	7×2	2×7	2×7
2×7	2×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	2×7	7×2
2×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×2
3×7	3×7	2×7	3×7	3×7	2×7	3×7	7×3	2×7	7×3	7×3	7×2	3×7	7×3
7×3	7×2	7×2	7×3	2×7	2×7	7×3	2×7	2×7	3×7	2×7	2×7	3×7	2×7
3×7	7×2	7×2	3×7	7×2	2×7	7×3	7×2	7×2	7×3	7×2	7×2	7×3	7×2
7×2	3×7	2×7	2×7	7×3	2×7	7×2	7×3	7×2	2×7	7×3	2×7	2×7	3×7
8×4	8×4	4×8	4×8	4×8	4×8	4×8	8×4	8×4	8×4	4×8	4×8	4×8	8×4

The 8 times table

Work out each answer and write it in the box.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 20

1 $5 \times 8 = \square$

11 $10 \times 8 = \square$

2 $9 \times 8 = \square$

12 $2 \times 8 = \square$

3 $3 \times 8 = \square$

13 $1 \times 8 = \square$

4 $8 \times 8 = \square$

14 $8 \times 8 = \square$

5 $4 \times 8 = \square$

15 $12 \times 8 = \square$

6 $7 \times 8 = \square$

16 $11 \times 8 = \square$

7 $6 \times 8 = \square$

17 $5 \times 8 = \square$

8 $11 \times 8 = \square$

18 $4 \times 8 = \square$

9 $1 \times 8 = \square$

19 $7 \times 8 = \square$

10 $12 \times 8 = \square$

20 $9 \times 8 = \square$

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank
arm beak camouflage coconut copper feet ink
Pacific siphon taste

1. An octopus can grow back a lost arm.
2. The giant Pacific octopus is the biggest kind.
3. The suckers let an octopus taste what it touches.
4. An octopus can shoot away by pushing water out of its siphon.
5. The veined octopus carries coconut shells to hide in.
6. An octopus squirts a cloud of ink to escape.
7. The only hard part of an octopus is its beak.
8. Changing colour to blend in is called camouflage.
9. The name octopus means “eight feet”.
10. Octopus blood is blue because it contains copper.

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 8

1. Octopuses have strong bones in their arms.
2. Some octopuses live in rivers.
3. There are about 300 kinds of octopus.
4. Some octopuses use coconut shells as shelters.
5. Octopuses can taste with their suckers.
6. Most octopuses live for 20 years.
7. An octopus has three hearts.
8. An octopus can grow back a lost arm.

☐ True☒ False☐ True☒ False☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False☐ True☒ False☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False

Octopus word match

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| F den | A an animal that hunts other animals |
| B siphon | B a tube that squirts water to move fast |
| A predator | C an animal with no backbone |
| D suckers | D cups on the arms that grip and taste |
| C invertebrate | E the bag-like body behind the head |
| G camouflage | F an octopus's hiding place |
| E mantle | G changing colour to blend in |

Octopus mini quiz

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank arm beak Pacific siphon suckers taste

1. The suckers let an octopus taste what it touches.
2. An octopus can shoot away by pushing water out of its siphon.
3. An octopus can grow back a lost arm.
4. The only hard part of an octopus is its beak.
5. An octopus has eight arms covered in suckers.
6. The giant Pacific octopus is the biggest kind.

True or false?

7. An octopus has three hearts.
8. Some octopuses use coconut shells as shelters.
9. Most octopuses live for 20 years.
10. Octopuses have strong bones in their arms.

☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False☐ True☒ False☐ True☒ False

Octopus words

The hidden words are shaded in red.

h	s	q	v	m	o	l	l	u	s	c
a	i	l	n	s	c	s	t	d	p	i
y	p	o	s	d	a	e	l	i	p	j
s	h	c	u	h	m	z	p	i	r	s
g	o	t	c	g	o	v	t	p	e	r
i	n	o	k	h	u	a	c	c	d	m
l	f	p	e	e	f	y	v	j	a	a
l	b	u	r	a	l	y	e	a	t	n
s	i	s	s	r	a	o	n	r	o	t
a	n	c	x	t	g	a	o	m	r	l
k	k	a	e	s	e	c	m	s	f	e

- ☐ arms ☐ camouflage ☐ gills ☐ hearts ☐ ink ☐ mantle
☐ mollusc ☐ octopus ☐ predator ☐ siphon ☐ suckers
☐ venom

It's an octopus!

Here's how the finished picture looks.

14  light blue 21  purple 28  leave white 32  sand
35  black 36  pink

7×2	7×2	2×7	7×2	2×7	2×7	2×7	7×2	7×2	2×7	2×7	7×2	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	7×2	2×7	3×7	7×3	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	2×7	2×7	2×7	2×7
2×7	2×7	2×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	7×3	2×7	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×2	7×2
2×7	2×7	7×3	7×3	7×4	7×4	7×3	3×7	4×7	4×7	3×7	3×7	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	7×3	7×3	4×7	7×4	3×7	3×7	4×7	7×4	7×3	7×3	2×7	2×7
2×7	7×2	7×3	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	2×7	7×2
2×7	2×7	3×7	7×3	3×7	7×3	6×6	4×9	7×3	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×2	7×2
7×2	7×2	2×7	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	7×2	2×7	2×7
2×7	2×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	2×7	7×2
2×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×3	3×7	7×3	3×7	3×7	7×3	7×3	7×2
3×7	3×7	2×7	3×7	3×7	2×7	3×7	7×3	2×7	7×3	7×3	7×2	3×7	7×3
7×3	7×2	7×2	7×3	2×7	2×7	7×3	2×7	2×7	3×7	2×7	2×7	3×7	2×7
3×7	7×2	7×2	3×7	7×2	2×7	7×3	7×2	7×2	7×3	7×2	7×2	7×3	7×2
7×2	3×7	2×7	2×7	7×3	2×7	7×2	7×3	7×2	2×7	7×3	2×7	2×7	3×7
8×4	8×4	4×8	4×8	4×8	4×8	4×8	8×4	8×4	8×4	4×8	4×8	4×8	8×4

The 8 times table

Check each box against these answers.

Name _____

Date _____

Score _____ / 20

1 $5 \times 8 = 40$

11 $10 \times 8 = 80$

2 $9 \times 8 = 72$

12 $2 \times 8 = 16$

3 $3 \times 8 = 24$

13 $1 \times 8 = 8$

4 $8 \times 8 = 64$

14 $8 \times 8 = 64$

5 $4 \times 8 = 32$

15 $12 \times 8 = 96$

6 $7 \times 8 = 56$

16 $11 \times 8 = 88$

7 $6 \times 8 = 48$

17 $5 \times 8 = 40$

8 $11 \times 8 = 88$

18 $4 \times 8 = 32$

9 $1 \times 8 = 8$

19 $7 \times 8 = 56$

10 $12 \times 8 = 96$

20 $9 \times 8 = 72$

All about octopuses

Octopuses are soft-bodied molluscs in the cephalopod group, alongside squid and cuttlefish. There are about 300 species, living in every ocean from rock pools to the deep sea, but none in fresh water.

An octopus has three hearts, copper-based blue blood and no bones apart from its beak. Its skin can change colour and texture in an instant, and its suckers can taste and smell what they touch.

Quick facts

Group	mollusc (cephalopod)
Kinds	about 300
Arms	8
Hearts	3
Blood	blue
Lives	in every ocean
Eats	crabs, shrimps, clams, fish
Life span	often 1 to 2 years
Biggest	giant Pacific octopus

Key words

cephalopod: the mollusc group with octopuses, squid and cuttlefish

invertebrate: an animal with no backbone

haemocyanin: a copper-rich protein that carries oxygen in octopus blood

chromatophore: a skin cell with colour that helps change colour

neuron: a nerve cell

mimicry: copying another animal to stay safe

Fun facts

Three hearts

Two pump blood through the gills and one pumps it around the body.

Arms, not tentacles

Scientists call an octopus's eight limbs arms.

Rock door

Some octopuses pull a rock across the door of their den.

Coconut homes

The veined octopus carries coconut shells to hide in.

Going deeper

- Since 2012 UK law on animal experiments has protected all cephalopods, because they may feel pain.
- Octopus blood uses haemocyanin, a copper-rich protein that carries oxygen well in cold water with little oxygen.
- Engineers study octopus arms to build soft robots that can grip and move objects.
- Skin cells called chromatophores let it change colour, and tiny muscles change its skin texture.

Think about it: Camouflage, ink and mimicry all help octopuses survive. Which do you think works best, and why?

Octopuses

Use the words in the box to fill the gaps. Each word is used once.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank cephalopods chromatophores haemocyanin invertebrate
Jurassic mantle mimic neurons robots suckers

1. Octopuses can taste and smell with their _____.
2. Octopuses evolved in the _____ period.
3. About two-thirds of an octopus's _____ are in its arms.
4. The bag-like body that holds most organs is the _____.
5. Octopuses, squid and cuttlefish are molluscs called _____.
6. Engineers study octopus arms to build soft _____.
7. Skin cells called _____ help an octopus change colour.
8. An octopus has no backbone, so it is an _____.
9. The _____ octopus copies lionfish and sea snakes.
10. Octopus blood carries oxygen using a copper-rich protein called _____.

Octopuses

Read each sentence. Circle True or False.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Octopuses are vertebrates. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 2. All octopuses are venomous. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 3. Octopus blood carries oxygen using copper. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 4. The common octopus has about as many neurons as a dog. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 5. Octopuses can briefly crawl out of the water. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 6. Most of an octopus's neurons are in its central brain. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 7. "Octopi" is the standard English plural. | ☐ True | ☐ False |

Octopus word match

Write the letter of the right meaning in each box.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ mimicry | A a tube used to breathe and to jet away |
| ☐ siphon | B a copper-rich protein that carries oxygen in octopus blood |
| ☐ haemocyanin | C copying another animal to stay safe |
| ☐ invertebrate | D a skin cell with colour that helps change colour |
| ☐ chromatophore | E a nerve cell |
| ☐ neuron | F a soft-bodied animal group, including snails and clams |
| ☐ mollusc | G an animal with no backbone |

Octopuses: think and discuss

Read the facts, then write your answers. There are no wrong answers if you give reasons.

Name _____ Date _____

Rock door

Some octopuses pull a rock across the door of their den.

Squeezy!

With no bones, only the beak limits how small a gap it fits through.

Coconut homes

The veined octopus carries coconut shells to hide in.

Grow back

An octopus can grow back a lost arm.

Engineers copy octopus arms to build soft robots. What jobs could a soft robot arm do better than a hard one?

Octopuses may feel pain, and UK law protects them in science experiments. Should animals that may feel pain have special protection? Give reasons.

Octopus words

Find each word and tick it off. The words can go in any direction, even backwards.

Name _____ Date _____ Found _____ / 14

n	u	f	t	d	e	g	k	n	i	q	u	t	k
s	u	q	k	h	m	p	m	k	x	w	h	t	x
t	d	b	s	e	a	r	s	x	z	p	l	y	z
r	z	u	r	t	n	e	i	o	c	n	l	m	i
a	h	u	e	a	t	d	p	r	a	w	o	q	x
e	c	h	k	r	l	a	h	r	m	y	c	z	v
h	g	n	c	b	e	t	o	e	o	s	t	v	e
w	i	q	u	e	j	o	n	b	u	z	o	v	n
o	l	z	s	t	b	r	j	l	f	z	p	t	o
u	l	z	l	r	u	v	l	j	l	z	u	u	m
f	s	i	y	e	v	o	f	v	a	x	s	x	h
w	z	t	o	v	m	e	z	b	g	o	p	o	n
v	t	f	j	n	r	j	a	t	e	a	r	m	s
b	e	a	k	i	m	t	y	y	f	b	g	e	p

- ☐ arms ☐ beak ☐ camouflage ☐ gills ☐ hearts ☐ ink
☐ invertebrate ☐ mantle ☐ mollusc ☐ octopus ☐ predator
☐ siphon ☐ suckers ☐ venom

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank cephalopods chromatophores haemocyanin invertebrate
Jurassic mantle mimic neurons robots suckers

1. Octopuses can taste and smell with their suckers.
2. Octopuses evolved in the Jurassic period.
3. About two-thirds of an octopus's neurons are in its arms.
4. The bag-like body that holds most organs is the mantle.
5. Octopuses, squid and cuttlefish are molluscs called cephalopods.
6. Engineers study octopus arms to build soft robots.
7. Skin cells called chromatophores help an octopus change colour.
8. An octopus has no backbone, so it is an invertebrate.
9. The mimic octopus copies lionfish and sea snakes.
10. Octopus blood carries oxygen using a copper-rich protein called haemocyanin.

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

1. Octopuses are vertebrates.
2. All octopuses are venomous.
3. Octopus blood carries oxygen using copper.
4. The common octopus has about as many neurons as a dog.
5. Octopuses can briefly crawl out of the water.
6. Most of an octopus's neurons are in its central brain.
7. "Octopi" is the standard English plural.

☐ True☒ False☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False☒ True☐ False☐ True☒ False☐ True☒ False

Octopus word match

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| C mimicry | A a tube used to breathe and to jet away |
| A siphon | B a copper-rich protein that carries oxygen in octopus blood |
| B haemocyanin | C copying another animal to stay safe |
| G invertebrate | D a skin cell with colour that helps change colour |
| D chromatophore | E a nerve cell |
| E neuron | F a soft-bodied animal group, including snails and clams |
| F mollusc | G an animal with no backbone |

Octopus words

The hidden words are shaded in red.

n	u	f	t	d	e	g	k	n	i	q	u	t	k
s	u	q	k	h	m	p	m	k	x	w	h	t	x
t	d	b	s	e	a	r	s	x	z	p	l	y	z
r	z	u	r	t	n	e	i	o	c	n	l	m	i
a	h	u	e	a	t	d	p	r	a	w	o	q	x
e	c	h	k	r	l	a	h	r	m	y	c	z	v
h	g	n	c	b	e	t	o	e	o	s	t	v	e
w	i	q	u	e	j	o	n	b	u	z	o	v	n
o	l	z	s	t	b	r	j	l	f	z	p	t	o
u	l	z	l	r	u	v	l	j	l	z	u	u	m
f	s	i	y	e	v	o	f	v	a	x	s	x	h
w	z	t	o	v	m	e	z	b	g	o	p	o	n
v	t	f	j	n	r	j	a	t	e	a	r	m	s
b	e	a	k	i	m	t	y	y	f	b	g	e	p

- ☐ arms ☐ beak ☐ camouflage ☐ gills ☐ hearts ☐ ink
☐ invertebrate ☐ mantle ☐ mollusc ☐ octopus ☐ predator
☐ siphon ☐ suckers ☐ venom