

Topic: Octopus

Long time ago, sailors were afraid of octopuses. They called them “Kraken”. People believed that Kraken was a squid or an octopus like sea monster that could swallow ships. After studying octopuses for a long time, we now know that they are not monsters but very smart and intelligent sea creatures.

Octopuses live in salty waters of seas and oceans around the world. They spend most of their time swimming at the ocean floor. Octopuses eat fish and shelled animals like crabs, clams, and lobsters.

Octopuses belong to a family of mollusks. They have soft bodies with no bones. Octopuses have a ball shaped head called mantle. It includes their heart, stomach and brain. Octopuses have three hearts. They are color blind. They have eight arms and each arm has suckers on the underside. Suckers help them grip their prey in the water. They also taste and feel through their suckers. Octopuses breathe through gills and do not need air for breathing. The color of an octopus’s blood is blue. The reason for this is because they have copper

in their blood that binds with oxygen and makes their blood blue. Octopus's arms also have the ability to regrow if bitten off by a predator.

Octopuses are vulnerable creatures. They have no shells and are rich in protein. It makes them tasty treats for predators like eels, sharks and whales. But octopuses are smart. They have great defense tactics. They can shoot ink at their predators that can shock them. The skin of octopus can change color enabling them to blend with their surroundings. They have 3 layers of 3 different types of cells near their skin surface. They help them change color in a fraction of a second and becoming very hard to spot. Octopuses can also fit through very tight spaces and hide from predators. Their arms can regrow if bitten off by a predator.

Even though sailors feared the octopuses as sea monsters, but we now know that they are highly intelligent creatures. They have 3 hearts with blue blood, eight arms with suckers that help them taste, feel and grip, ability to regrow lost arms, and incredible defense tactics like shooting ink, fitting in small places

to hide and camouflaging abilities. Hence, octopuses are not mythical monsters but fascinating and smart mollusks.

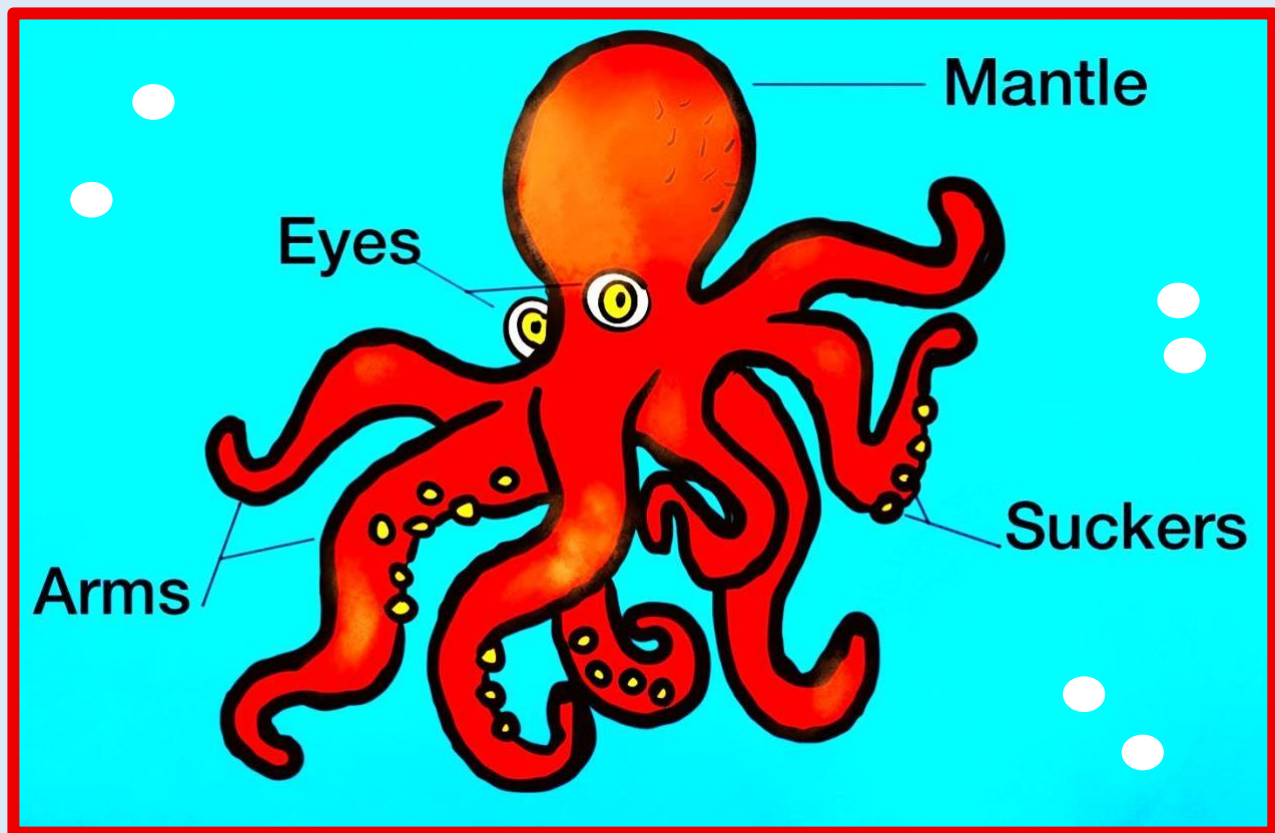


Figure 1Figure showing parts of body of an Octopus

Bibliography:

1. Wikipedia
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3. “Octopuses” by Kate Riggs
4. “Amazing Animals – Octopuses” by Kate Riggs
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