FACT SHEET · AGES 7–11

All about octopuses

Acorn & Ink

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

Arms, not tentacles
Scientists call an octopus's eight limbs arms.

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

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.

Grow back
An octopus can grow back a lost arm.

Coconut homes
The veined octopus carries coconut shells to hide in.

My favourite fact is...

Facts: Wikipedia "Octopus" (CC BY-SA 4.0), Natural History Museum, National Geographic, Shedd and Bristol aquariums · our own words

Sheet OCT-MID-FACT-79139

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Octopuses

Acorn & Ink

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

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank

300 arm bones camouflage feet hearts Pacific siphon suckers taste

1. An octopus has three _____.
2. An octopus can grow back a lost _____.
3. An octopus can shoot away by pushing water out of its _____.
4. The giant _____ octopus is the biggest kind.
5. An octopus has no _____, so it can squeeze through tiny gaps.
6. An octopus has eight arms covered in _____.
7. The name octopus means “eight _____”.
8. Changing colour to blend in is called _____.
9. The suckers let an octopus _____ what it touches.
10. There are about _____ kinds of octopus.

Facts: Wikipedia “Octopus” (CC BY-SA 4.0), Natural History Museum and others

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Octopuses

Acorn & Ink

Read each sentence. Circle True or False.

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 8

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

Facts: Wikipedia “Octopus” (CC BY-SA 4.0), Natural History Museum and others

Sheet OCT-MID-TF-17312

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Octopus word match

Acorn & Ink

Write the letter of the right meaning in each box.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

☐	**den**	**A**	an animal that hunts other animals
☐	**predator**	**B**	the bag-like body behind the head
☐	**venom**	**C**	an octopus's hiding place
☐	**suckers**	**D**	a harmful liquid an animal injects
☐	**camouflage**	**E**	changing colour to blend in
☐	**invertebrate**	**F**	an animal with no backbone
☐	**mantle**	**G**	cups on the arms that grip and taste

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Acorn & Ink

Octopus mini quiz

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

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank 300 beak coconut copper Pacific taste

1. The suckers let an octopus _____ what it touches.
2. Octopus blood is blue because it contains _____.
3. The veined octopus carries _____ shells to hide in.
4. There are about _____ kinds of octopus.
5. The giant _____ octopus is the biggest kind.
6. The only hard part of an octopus is its _____.

True or false?

7. Some octopuses live in rivers. True False
8. An octopus can grow back a lost arm. True False
9. An octopus has three hearts. True False
10. Some octopuses use coconut shells as shelters. True False

WORD SEARCH · MEDIUM · MEDIUM

Octopus words

Acorn & Ink

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

Name _____ Date _____ Found _____ / 12

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

☐ arms ☐ beak ☐ camouflage ☐ gills ☐ hearts ☐ ink

☐ mantle ☐ octopus ☐ predator ☐ siphon ☐ suckers

☐ venom

COLOUR BY SUM · TIMES TABLES

What's the mystery picture?

Acorn & Ink

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

14 sand 20 purple 24 pink 32 light blue

36 leave white 45 black

4 × 8	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	8 × 4
4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	10 × 2	2 × 10	2 × 10	5 × 4	2 × 10	5 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	4 × 8
8 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	10 × 2	10 × 2	4 × 5	2 × 10	2 × 10	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8
4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 5	10 × 2	2 × 10	10 × 2	10 × 2	10 × 2	10 × 2	4 × 5	10 × 2	4 × 5	8 × 4	8 × 4
4 × 8	8 × 4	5 × 4	2 × 10	9 × 4	4 × 9	4 × 5	10 × 2	9 × 4	4 × 9	10 × 2	2 × 10	4 × 8	8 × 4
4 × 8	4 × 8	2 × 10	10 × 2	6 × 6	9 × 5	5 × 4	2 × 10	6 × 6	5 × 9	10 × 2	2 × 10	8 × 4	8 × 4
4 × 8	4 × 8	2 × 10	4 × 5	10 × 2	5 × 4	5 × 4	10 × 2	2 × 10	10 × 2	10 × 2	10 × 2	8 × 4	4 × 8
8 × 4	4 × 8	4 × 5	5 × 4	2 × 10	4 × 5	6 × 4	3 × 8	10 × 2	2 × 10	5 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4	4 × 8
4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	5 × 4	10 × 2	2 × 10	10 × 2	4 × 5	2 × 10	5 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4
8 × 4	4 × 8	5 × 4	10 × 2	4 × 5	4 × 5	10 × 2	4 × 5	5 × 4	4 × 5	5 × 4	10 × 2	8 × 4	4 × 8
4 × 8	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	4 × 5	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	2 × 10	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4
4 × 5	2 × 10	8 × 4	5 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	5 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4	5 × 4	4 × 5	8 × 4	2 × 10	5 × 4
2 × 10	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 5	4 × 8	4 × 8	10 × 2	8 × 4	8 × 4	10 × 2	8 × 4	8 × 4	5 × 4	4 × 8
2 × 10	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 5	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 5	8 × 4	8 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	4 × 8	10 × 2	8 × 4
8 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	4 × 8	4 × 5	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 5	8 × 4	4 × 8	10 × 2
7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2

MULTIPLYING

The 8 times table

Work out each answer and write it in the box.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 20

1	12 × 8 =		11	2 × 8 =	
2	3 × 8 =		12	11 × 8 =	
3	10 × 8 =		13	4 × 8 =	
4	1 × 8 =		14	2 × 8 =	
5	7 × 8 =		15	5 × 8 =	
6	5 × 8 =		16	1 × 8 =	
7	4 × 8 =		17	8 × 8 =	
8	9 × 8 =		18	3 × 8 =	
9	8 × 8 =		19	10 × 8 =	
10	6 × 8 =		20	11 × 8 =	

Acorn & Ink

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank

300 arm bones camouflage feet hearts Pacific siphon suckers taste

1. An octopus has three **hearts**.
2. An octopus can grow back a lost **arm**.
3. An octopus can shoot away by pushing water out of its **siphon**.
4. The giant **Pacific** octopus is the biggest kind.
5. An octopus has no **bones**, so it can squeeze through tiny gaps.
6. An octopus has eight arms covered in **suckers**.
7. The name octopus means “eight **feet**”.
8. Changing colour to blend in is called **camouflage**.
9. The suckers let an octopus **taste** what it touches.
10. There are about **300** kinds of octopus.

Facts: Wikipedia “Octopus” (CC BY-SA 4.0), Natural History Museum and others

Sheet OCT-MID-GAPS-71673

ANSWERS · TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Acorn & Ink

Octopuses

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 8

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

Facts: Wikipedia “Octopus” (CC BY-SA 4.0), Natural History Museum and others

Sheet OCT-MID-TF-17312

ANSWERS · TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Octopus word match

Acorn & Ink

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

C	**den**	**A**	an animal that hunts other animals
A	**predator**	**B**	the bag-like body behind the head
D	**venom**	**C**	an octopus's hiding place
G	**suckers**	**D**	a harmful liquid an animal injects
E	**camouflage**	**E**	changing colour to blend in
F	**invertebrate**	**F**	an animal with no backbone
B	**mantle**	**G**	cups on the arms that grip and taste

ANSWERS · TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Octopus mini quiz

Acorn & Ink

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank 300 beak coconut copper Pacific taste

1. The suckers let an octopus **taste** what it touches.
2. Octopus blood is blue because it contains **copper**.
3. The veined octopus carries **coconut** shells to hide in.
4. There are about **300** kinds of octopus.
5. The giant **Pacific** octopus is the biggest kind.
6. The only hard part of an octopus is its **beak**.

True or false?

7. Some octopuses live in rivers. — True / **False**
8. An octopus can grow back a lost arm. — **True** / False
9. An octopus has three hearts. — **True** / False
10. Some octopuses use coconut shells as shelters. — **True** / False

ANSWERS · WORD SEARCH · MEDIUM · MEDIUM

Octopus words

The hidden words are shaded in red.

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

- [ ] arms
- [ ] beak
- [ ] camouflage
- [ ] gills
- [ ] hearts
- [ ] ink
- [ ] mantle
- [ ] octopus
- [ ] predator
- [ ] siphon
- [ ] suckers
- [ ] venom

Acorn & Ink

It's an octopus!

Here's how the finished picture looks.

4 × 8	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	8 × 4
4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	10 × 2	2 × 10	2 × 10	5 × 4	2 × 10	5 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	4 × 8
8 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	10 × 2	10 × 2	4 × 5	2 × 10	2 × 10	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 8
4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 5	10 × 2	2 × 10	10 × 2	10 × 2	10 × 2	10 × 2	4 × 5	10 × 2	4 × 5	8 × 4	8 × 4
4 × 8	8 × 4	5 × 4	2 × 10	9 × 4	4 × 9	4 × 5	10 × 2	9 × 4	4 × 9	10 × 2	2 × 10	4 × 8	8 × 4
4 × 8	4 × 8	2 × 10	10 × 2	6 × 6	9 × 5	5 × 4	2 × 10	6 × 6	5 × 9	10 × 2	2 × 10	8 × 4	8 × 4
4 × 8	4 × 8	2 × 10	4 × 5	10 × 2	5 × 4	5 × 4	10 × 2	2 × 10	10 × 2	10 × 2	10 × 2	8 × 4	4 × 8
8 × 4	4 × 8	4 × 5	5 × 4	2 × 10	4 × 5	6 × 4	3 × 8	10 × 2	2 × 10	5 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4	4 × 8
4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 8	5 × 4	10 × 2	2 × 10	10 × 2	4 × 5	2 × 10	5 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4
8 × 4	4 × 8	5 × 4	10 × 2	4 × 5	4 × 5	10 × 2	4 × 5	5 × 4	4 × 5	5 × 4	10 × 2	8 × 4	4 × 8
4 × 8	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	4 × 5	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	2 × 10	2 × 10	4 × 5	5 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4
4 × 5	2 × 10	8 × 4	5 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	5 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4	5 × 4	4 × 5	8 × 4	2 × 10	5 × 4
2 × 10	4 × 8	8 × 4	4 × 5	4 × 8	4 × 8	10 × 2	8 × 4	8 × 4	10 × 2	8 × 4	8 × 4	5 × 4	4 × 8
2 × 10	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 5	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 5	8 × 4	8 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	4 × 8	10 × 2	8 × 4
8 × 4	5 × 4	8 × 4	8 × 4	2 × 10	8 × 4	4 × 8	4 × 5	4 × 8	4 × 8	4 × 5	8 × 4	4 × 8	10 × 2
7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2

14 sand 20 purple 24 pink 32 light blue

36 leave white 45 black

ANSWERS · MULTIPLYING

The 8 times table

Acorn & Ink

Check each box against these answers.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 20

1	12 × 8 =	96	11	2 × 8 =	16
2	3 × 8 =	24	12	11 × 8 =	88
3	10 × 8 =	80	13	4 × 8 =	32
4	1 × 8 =	8	14	2 × 8 =	16
5	7 × 8 =	56	15	5 × 8 =	40
6	5 × 8 =	40	16	1 × 8 =	8
7	4 × 8 =	32	17	8 × 8 =	64
8	9 × 8 =	72	18	3 × 8 =	24
9	8 × 8 =	64	19	10 × 8 =	80
10	6 × 8 =	48	20	11 × 8 =	88