Name: _____ Date: _____

The Octopus Hides in Plain Sight

Circle group

An octopus is soft. It has no shell. It has no bones. It has eight arms. How does it stay safe in the sea?

One way is to hide. An octopus can change the color of its skin. It can turn brown, gray, or red. It can look like a rock or like sand. A hungry fish may swim right past it.

An octopus can change the feel of its skin too. It can make bumps to look like a rough rock.

Its body is very bendy. With no bones, it can squeeze through a tiny gap. Some octopuses hide in a small cave.

If danger is close, an octopus can squirt dark ink. The ink makes the water hard to see through. The octopus swims away.

Questions

1. How many arms does an octopus have?

_____

_____

2. What can an octopus do with the color of its skin?

_____

_____

3. Why can an octopus squeeze through a tiny gap?

_____

_____

4. What does an octopus squirt when danger is close?

_____

_____

5. Why might a fish swim right past an octopus?

_____

_____

Words to know

octopus: a soft sea animal with eight arms
bendy: able to bend easily
gap: a small opening between two things
ink: dark liquid that some sea animals squirt

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Octopus Hides in Plain Sight

Triangle group

An octopus is soft. It has no shell and no bones. It has eight arms. So how does it stay safe in the sea?

One way is to hide. An octopus can change the color of its skin. It can turn brown, gray, or red. It can look like a rock, or it can look like the sand. When an octopus matches its place, a hungry fish may swim right past it.

An octopus can also change the feel of its skin. It can make bumps, so it looks like a rough rock.

Its body is also very bendy. With no bones, it can squeeze through a tiny gap. Some octopuses hide in a small cave or under a rock.

If danger comes close, an octopus can squirt out a cloud of dark ink. The ink makes the water hard to see through, and the octopus swims away.

Questions

1. How many arms does an octopus have?

_____

_____

2. What can an octopus do with the color of its skin?

_____

_____

3. Why can an octopus squeeze through a tiny gap?

_____

_____

4. What does an octopus squirt when danger comes close?

_____

_____

5. Why might a hungry fish swim right past an octopus?

_____

_____

Words to know

octopus: a soft sea animal with eight arms
match: to look the same as something else
bendy: able to bend easily
gap: a small opening between two things
ink: dark liquid that some sea animals squirt

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Octopus Hides in Plain Sight

Square group

An octopus has a soft body with no shell and no bones, and it has eight long arms. With so little protection, how does it stay safe in the sea?

One clever way is to hide. An octopus can change the color of its skin to brown, gray, or red. It can make itself look like a rock or like the sand on the sea floor. When an octopus matches its surroundings so well, a hungry fish may swim right past without noticing it.

An octopus can even change the feel of its skin by making small bumps, so that it looks like a rough, rocky stone.

Its body is also incredibly bendy. Since it has no bones, it can squeeze through a very tiny gap, and some octopuses tuck themselves into a small cave or under a rock.

When danger comes close, an octopus can squirt out a cloud of dark ink. The ink makes the water difficult to see through, and the octopus swims away.

Questions

1. How many long arms does an octopus have?

_____

_____

2. What can an octopus do to the color of its skin?

_____

_____

3. Why is an octopus able to squeeze through a very tiny gap?

_____

_____

4. What does an octopus squirt out when danger comes close?

_____

_____

5. Why might a hungry fish swim past an octopus without noticing it?

_____

_____

Words to know

octopus: a soft sea animal with eight arms
match: to look the same as something else
bendy: able to bend easily
gap: a small opening between two things
ink: dark liquid that some sea animals squirt

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Octopus Hides in Plain Sight

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Octopus Hides in Plain Sight

Easier · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. Eight.
2. It can change it to look like a rock or sand.
3. It has no bones, so it is very bendy.
4. Dark ink.
5. The octopus looks like its place, so the fish cannot see it.

Triangle: The Octopus Hides in Plain Sight

This passage · 148 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. Eight.
2. It can change it to look like a rock or the sand.
3. It has no bones, so its body is very bendy.
4. A cloud of dark ink.
5. The octopus matches its place, so the fish cannot see it.

Square: The Octopus Hides in Plain Sight

Harder · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Eight.
2. It can change it to look like a rock or the sand.
3. It has no bones, so its body is incredibly bendy.
4. A cloud of dark ink.
5. The octopus matches its surroundings, so the fish cannot see it.