Name: _____ Date: _____

The Octopus, Master of Disguise

Circle group

An octopus has a soft body. It has no shell and no bones. A hungry fish can eat it, so the octopus must stay safe.

One way is to hide. An octopus can squeeze into a small crack in the rocks. Its soft body bends to fit.

Another way is to change its look. Its skin has tiny spots that change color. On sand, it turns brown like the sand. On a red rock, it turns red. Its skin can even look bumpy like the rock.

An enemy may still find it. Then the octopus squirts dark ink. The enemy cannot see through the ink. The octopus swims away fast.

Hiding, changing color, and ink keep an octopus safe.

Questions

1. What body parts does an octopus not have?

_____

_____

2. How can an octopus fit into a small crack?

_____

_____

3. What do the spots on its skin do?

_____

_____

4. What does the octopus squirt at an enemy?

_____

_____

5. Why can the octopus swim away after it squirts ink?

_____

_____

6. Why is a soft body a problem for an octopus?

_____

_____

Words to know

shell: a hard cover that protects some animals
crack: a narrow gap in a rock
enemy: an animal that wants to eat another animal
ink: a 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, Master of Disguise

Triangle group

An octopus has a soft body and no shell. It has no bones, either. That makes it an easy snack for a hungry fish, so it needs clever ways to stay safe.

One way is to hide. An octopus can squeeze into a tiny crack between rocks. Its soft body bends to fit almost any space.

Another way is to change its look. The skin of an octopus has tiny spots that can change color. When it sits on sand, it can turn sandy brown. When it rests on a red rock, it can turn red. Its skin can even change to look bumpy like the rock.

If an enemy still finds it, the octopus can squirt a cloud of dark ink. The enemy cannot see through the ink. The octopus swims away fast while the cloud floats in the water.

Hiding, changing color, and using ink all help an octopus stay alive.

Questions

1. What body parts does an octopus not have?

_____

_____

2. How can an octopus fit into a tiny crack?

_____

_____

3. What do the spots on an octopus's skin do?

_____

_____

4. What does an octopus squirt when an enemy finds it?

_____

_____

5. Why can the octopus swim away safely after it squirts ink?

_____

_____

6. Why is a soft body a problem for an octopus?

_____

_____

Words to know

shell: a hard cover that protects some animals
crack: a narrow gap in a rock
enemy: an animal that wants to eat another animal
ink: a dark liquid that some sea animals squirt
clever: smart and good at solving problems

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, Master of Disguise

Square group

An octopus has a soft body with no shell and no bones. Because of this, it is an easy meal for a hungry fish, so it has developed several clever ways to stay safe.

The first way is hiding. An octopus can squeeze its flexible body into a tiny crack between rocks, and it bends to fit almost any narrow space.

The second way is changing its appearance. The octopus has tiny spots in its skin that can change color in an instant. When it settles on sand, it can turn a sandy brown, and when it rests on a red rock, it can turn red. Its skin can even become bumpy so that it resembles the rock beneath it.

If an enemy still manages to find it, the octopus can squirt a cloud of dark ink. The enemy cannot see through the cloud, so the octopus swims away quickly while the ink drifts through the water.

By hiding, changing color, and using ink, an octopus is able to stay alive in a sea full of hungry hunters.

Questions

1. Which body parts does an octopus not have?

_____

_____

2. How is an octopus able to fit into a tiny crack between rocks?

_____

_____

3. What can the spots in an octopus's skin do?

_____

_____

4. What does an octopus squirt when an enemy finds it?

_____

_____

5. Why is the octopus able to escape safely after it squirts ink?

_____

_____

6. Why does having a soft body make an octopus an easy meal?

_____

_____

Words to know

shell: a hard cover that protects some animals
crack: a narrow gap in a rock
enemy: an animal that wants to eat another animal
ink: a dark liquid that some sea animals squirt
clever: smart and good at solving problems

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, Master of Disguise

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

Circle: The Octopus, Master of Disguise

Easier · 119 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. It has no shell and no bones.
2. Its soft body bends to fit.
3. They change color.
4. Dark ink.
5. The enemy cannot see through the ink.
6. A hungry fish can eat it.

Triangle: The Octopus, Master of Disguise

This passage · 153 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. It has no shell and no bones.
2. Its soft body bends to fit.
3. They can change color.
4. A cloud of dark ink.
5. The enemy cannot see through the ink cloud.
6. It makes the octopus easy for a hungry fish to eat.

Square: The Octopus, Master of Disguise

Harder · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.8

1. It has no shell and no bones.
2. Its soft, flexible body bends to fit.
3. They can change color.
4. A cloud of dark ink.
5. The enemy cannot see through the ink cloud.
6. It has no shell or bones to protect it from a hungry fish.