

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Amazing Octopus

Grades 3-4

Nonfiction

- 1 The octopus may be one of the most unusual animals in the ocean. It has eight long arms covered with suction cups that help it grab food and feel its way around.
- 2 An octopus has no bones at all. Because its body is soft, it can squeeze through tiny cracks, as long as its hard beak fits. This helps it escape from danger and hide in small spaces.
- 3 Octopuses are masters of disguise. Special cells in their skin let them change color in less than a second. Some can even change the texture of their skin to look bumpy like a rock or smooth like sand.
- 4 If a predator gets too close, an octopus can squirt a cloud of dark ink into the water. While the enemy is confused, the octopus zooms away.
- 5 Inside, an octopus is surprising too. It has three hearts and blue blood.
- 6 Scientists also think octopuses are very clever. In aquariums, some have learned to open jars and solve puzzles to reach a snack.

Draw something you learned from this text.

Name: _____

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Questions: The Amazing Octopus

Read the passage again if you need to. Circle the best answer.

1. How many arms does an octopus have?

☐ a Six

☐ c Ten

☐ b Eight

☐ d Twelve

2. How can an octopus fit through tiny cracks?

☐ a It has no bones

☐ c It uses its ink

☐ b It is very small

☐ d It changes color

3. Why does an octopus squirt ink?

☐ a To find food

☐ c To clean the water

☐ b To confuse a predator and escape

☐ d To talk to other octopuses

4. What is the main idea of this text?

☐ a Octopuses have many amazing features

☐ c Octopuses eat snacks

☐ b Octopuses live in aquariums

☐ d Octopuses are fish

5. Name two ways an octopus can hide or protect itself.

Reading Comprehension: Answer Key

The Amazing Octopus

1. b) Eight
2. a) It has no bones
3. b) To confuse a predator and escape
4. a) Octopuses have many amazing features
5. Sample answer: It can change color and skin texture to blend in, and it can squirt ink to confuse a predator.