



OCTOPUS

By Callum



I chose the octopus as my sea creature because they are super cool and I'd like to help people know and understand more about them so that they can be protected better in our marine environment.

What Makes Octopuses So Cool

Octopuses are fun and extraordinary animals. They breathe through little holes in the side of their head. They are very slick and move very elegantly. They are real escape artists who can slip through the tiniest spaces. They have a brain for each leg.

Octopus use clever techniques to hide such as sometimes they grab onto shells, grasp them with their suckers and pull them together to make it look like a seashell. It is a clever use of tools by a sea creature.

When under threat of octopus or spray black ink and then get away as fast as they can. Octopus can also camouflage and change the color of their skin to fit in with the environment they are going past or resting in..

Octopus eat from a hole under their tentacles and the webbing around the tentacles. An octopus does not have teeth, they have a small beak-like mouth and have a very powerful bite.

Octopus are one of 300 hundred species of soft-bodies, eight limbed molluscs of the order Octopoda. The order is grouped within the class Cephalopoda which includes squid, cuttlefish and nautiloids.



Different species of octopus

There are many so here are some well-known ones:

1. Common octopus
2. Blue-ringed octopus
3. Giant pacific octopus
4. Mimic octopus
5. Caribbean reef octopus

Amazing Facts about Octopuses.

Some people know about Octopuses from myths and legends like the Kraken and the Gorgon but there are plenty of real facts about these magnificent creatures that are incredible.

Having eight legs is pretty amazing (and why they are called Octopuses). They also:

1. have been on earth for 140 million years since the late Jurassic period;
2. have nine brains and are the most intelligent invertebrate in the world;
3. octopus have three hearts;
4. have 208 suckers (on average);
5. use camouflage, squirt ink and use stones and shells to hide and hunt;
6. can interact with other animals including humans;
7. have amazing eyesight;

They can be deadly too. The most deadly octopus is the blue-ringed octopus; they can kill humans in under 26 seconds; its venom is 1,000 times worse than cyanide.

They move by crawling and spread their tentacles out and then give a blow inwards propelling them forward. Octopus can reach a speed of up to 25 mph.



- **Habitat**

Octopus can be found in quite a lot of areas around the world There are octopus in every Ocean in the world they make their homes in Holes crevices and sometimes even burrows in the coral

- **Food for Octopuses**

They eat things like crabs and shellfish and sometimes smaller octopus.



- **Predators**

Things that eat octopuses are humans, pajama sharks, and other sharks too. Octopus are a delicacy in lots of countries around the world, particularly the Mediterranean but sometimes people fish them a bit too much just to make the extra little bit of money and there is a risk of them being overfished.



- **Threats**

Octopus get trapped in fishing nets because of their eight tentacles.

Climate change is a big threat to octopuses because their homes are being destroyed by bleaching and dredging.

Also crabs and the creatures that octopus eat live in those coral reefs. If the crabs die and all the food for the octopus die from starvation.

Lifespan

Sadly most octopuses have a short life and live only a few years.

Females only give birth once in their lives. They hide away to look after their hundreds of babies and when the babies are ready to leave the nest they are so weak that they die.

Films to watch:

An Octopus in my living room

My Octopus teacher

Both these films show how incredible the octopus is and how we can learn from them.

I hope you enjoyed my octopus fact file and that you find out more about these fantastic sea creatures.

Thank you for your time