

For Creative Minds

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Camouflage, Protection, & Adaptations—Who am I?

Animals have adaptations to help them survive in their habitats. These adaptations can be physical (body parts) or behavioral (something the animal does). Many animals use camouflage to hide from predators (animals that want to eat them) and prey (animals that they want to eat). But camouflage isn't the only way that animals protect themselves. Match the animal to its adaptations that help it to survive life in the ocean. Answers are upside down on the bottom of the next page.

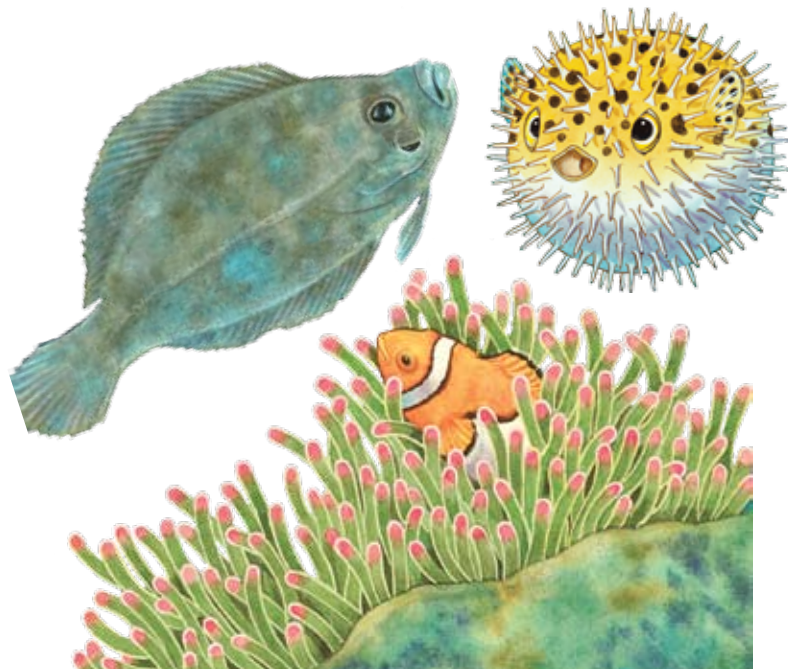


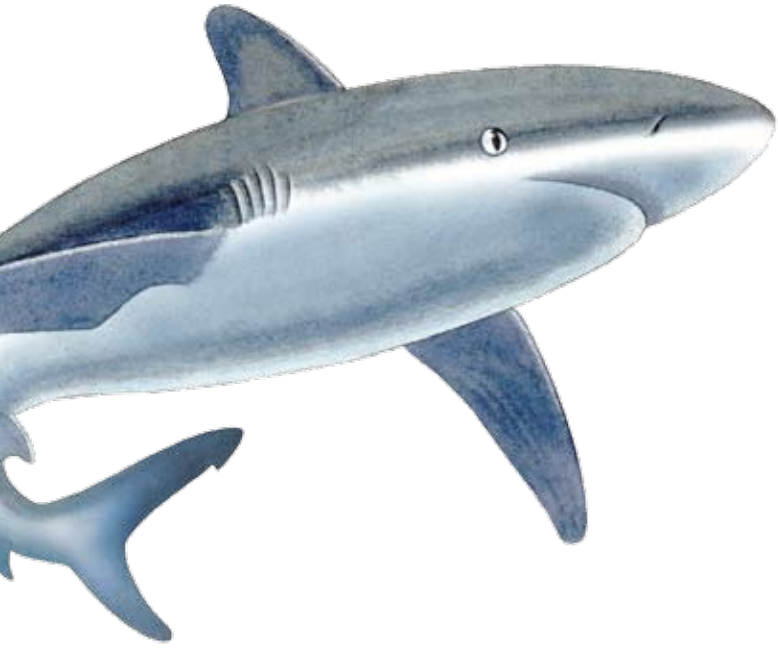
1 I am the top predator of my food chain. I use my sleek body to move quickly through the water to catch prey. My underside is light colored so animals from below don't see me against light, but the top of my body is dark to blend in with the water below for animals looking down at me.

2 I have bright colors to blend in with the colorful reef where I live. I like to hide from predators in caves or crevices (cracks) in the reef.

3 I have a carapace (hard shell) to protect me from predators. My brownish-green color helps me to blend in and hide in sea grass. My flippers help me swim. Unlike some of my land cousins, I cannot pull my head into my shell.

4 I am a fish but I don't swim very well. I do have a really strong tail that I wrap around grass or corals. I can be hard to see. I use my long, narrow mouth like a vacuum cleaner to catch food as it drifts by.





5 I can change colors to match my surroundings! I use dark red, purple, or black ink clouds to confuse my enemies to escape or to catch my prey.

6 I can change the color of my skin to copy the area around me. I usually lay flat on the ground but can swim too. Both my eyes are on top of my head and can move in different directions at the same time, so I can see all around me!

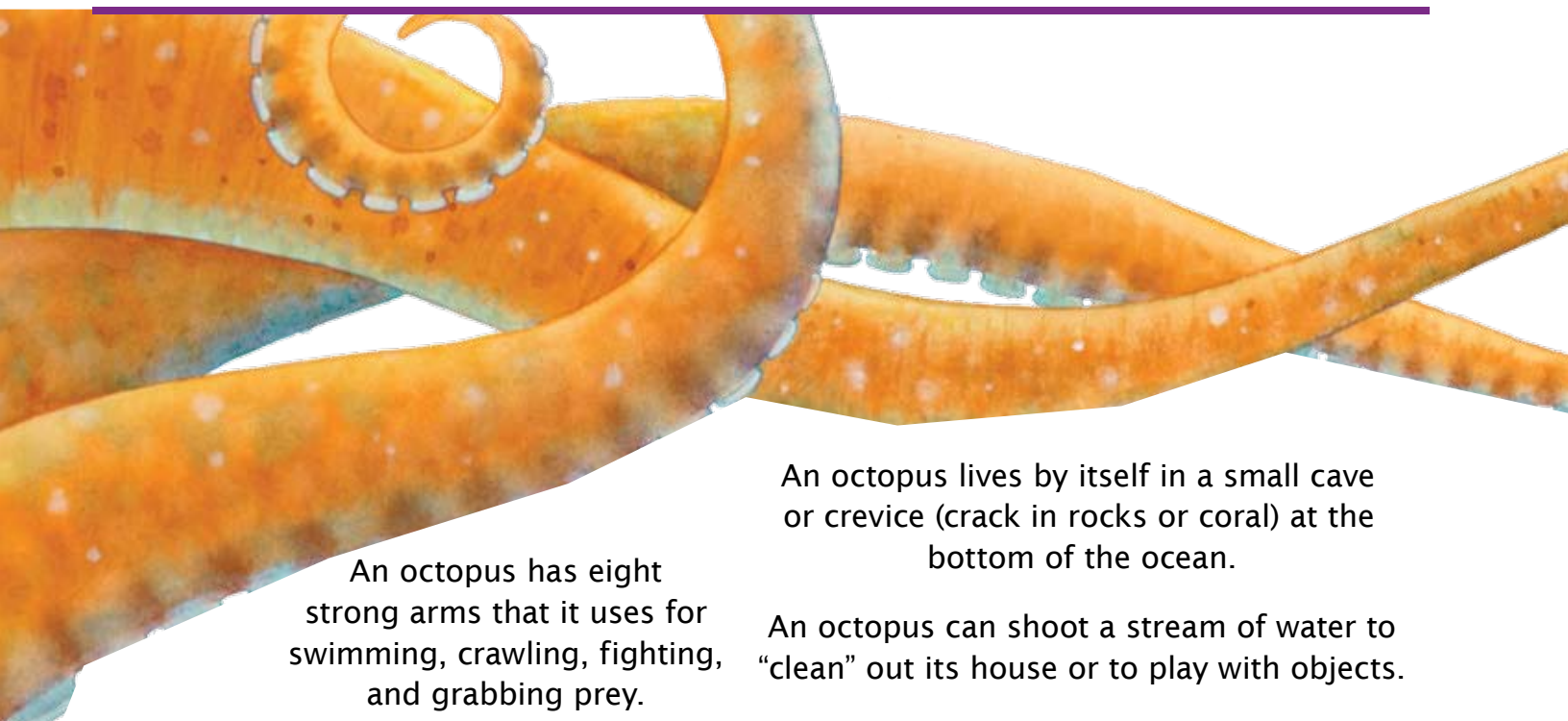
7 When I get scared, I blow myself up like a balloon. I might even have quills or barbs that could stick in the throat of any predator that tries to eat me.

8 I live in a sea anemone. I have a special mucus that prevents me from getting stung. My bright color attracts other fish and they get stung. I get to eat the leftovers!



Answers: 1-shark, 2-parrot fish, 3-sea turtle, 4-seahorse, 5-octopus, 6-flounder, 7 puffer fish, 8-clown fish

Octopus Fun Facts

A detailed illustration of several thick, orange-brown octopus tentacles. The tentacles are curled and overlapping, showing the texture of the skin and the rows of small, white suction cups along their edges. The background is plain white.

An octopus has eight strong arms that it uses for swimming, crawling, fighting, and grabbing prey.

The arms can push and pull and they have suction cups (like a bathroom plunger or the sticky suction cups on a bath mat) on the bottom to help it hold onto things.

If something happens to one of its eight arms, it can grow a new one!

Experiments have shown that an octopus can open a jar to get to food inside.

Because it doesn't have bones, it can slip into small openings.

An octopus has three hearts.

An octopus lives by itself in a small cave or crevice (crack in rocks or coral) at the bottom of the ocean.

An octopus can shoot a stream of water to "clean" out its house or to play with objects.

Sometimes, an octopus "builds" a fence or protective area by placing rocks or shells on top of each other.

An octopus can remember how to get somewhere and to return to its house.

It turns white when it is scared or red when it is angry - just like humans.

