



Meet the Octopus

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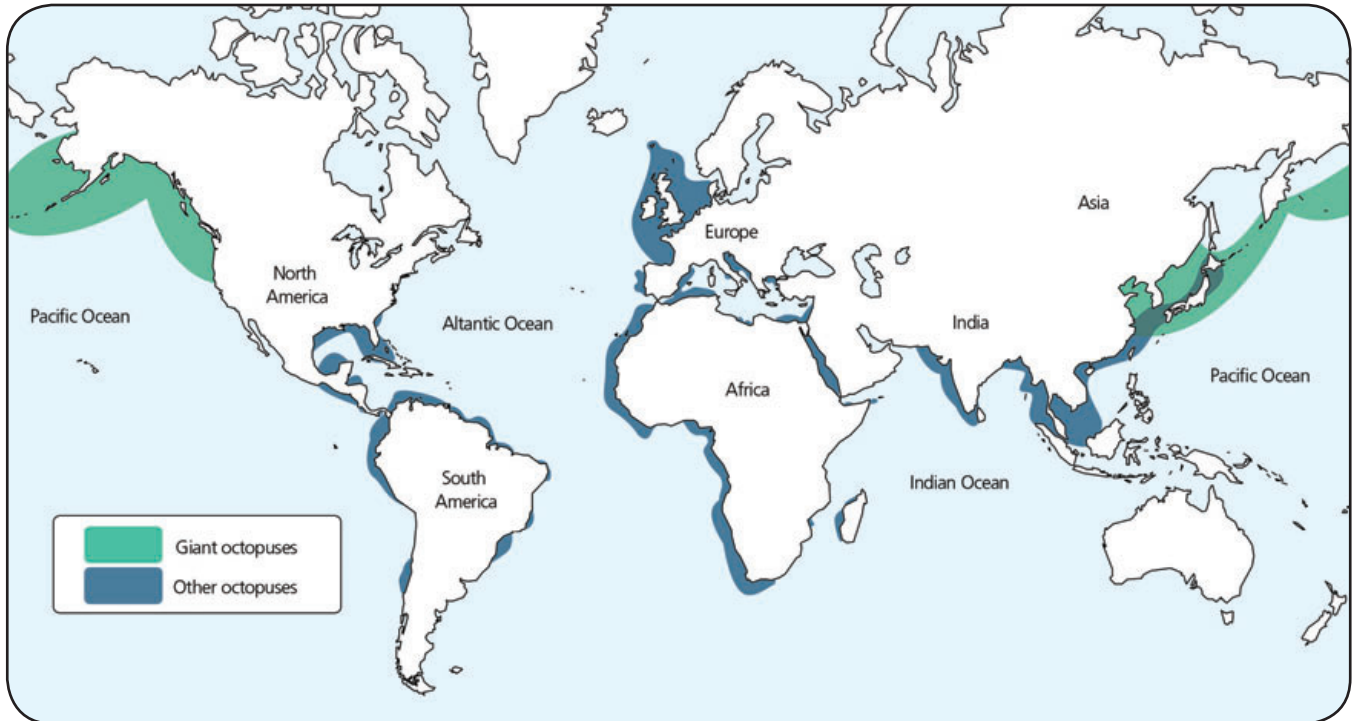
What Is an Octopus?

Your two arms are important parts of your body. They help you carry a ball or do jumping jacks. Imagine if you had four arms, or even six. What would you do with them?

The octopus is a sea animal. Octopuses have six more arms than you do. They get to play with eight arms!



Where Does the Giant Octopus Live?



The giant octopus is the world's biggest octopus. It lives in the Pacific Ocean. Other kinds of octopuses live in other oceans, like the Atlantic or the Indian.

Octopuses live in small places.

Some live in little caves. Others build nests in the sand. Octopuses can even live inside a glass bottle!

An octopus's home is called a **den**.





What Does an Octopus Look Like?

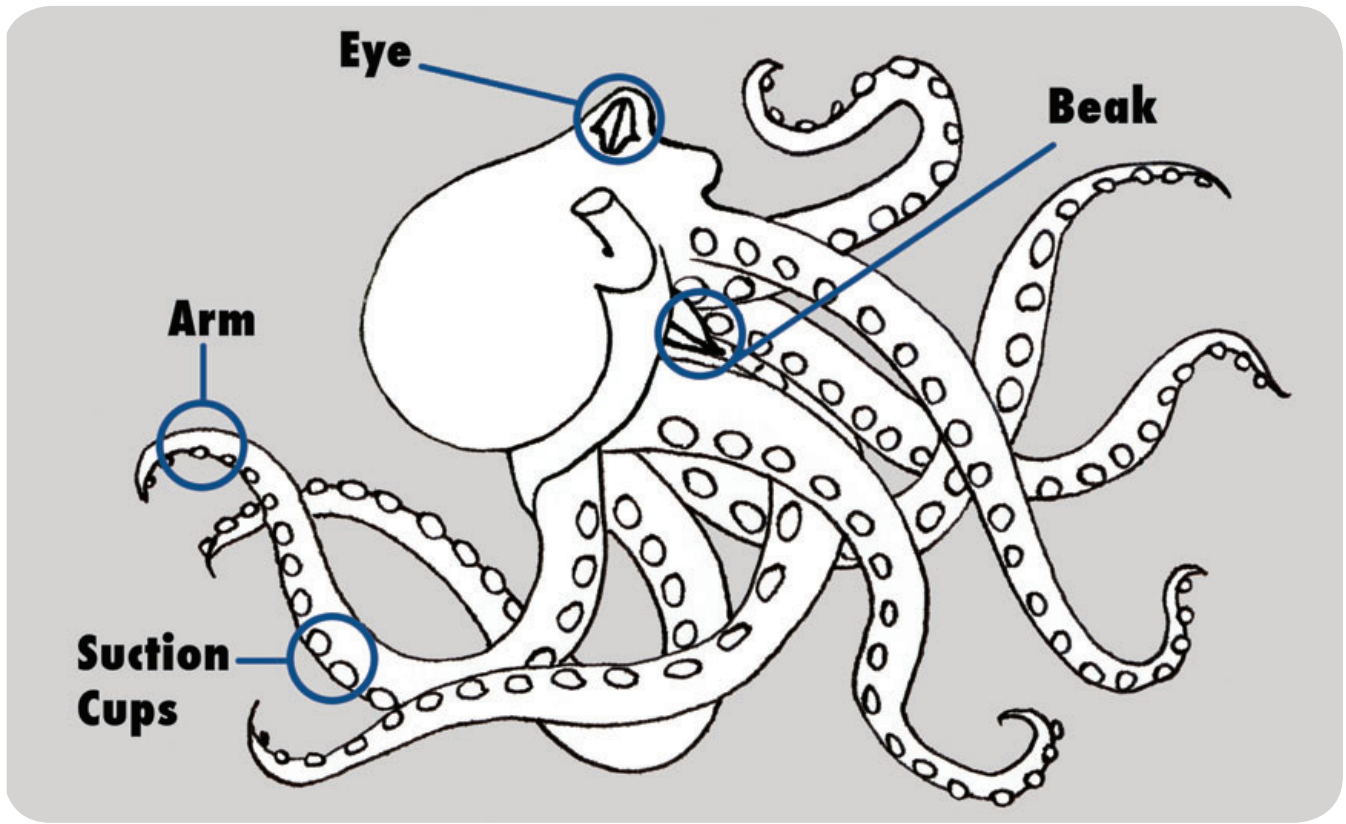


There are more than 100 kinds of octopuses. They look very different from one another. Octopuses can be red, yellow, or other colors. Some have stripes or rings.

Octopuses can be different sizes, too. Some are as tall as a house. Some are as small as your finger. The dumbo octopus looks like an elephant.



The Parts of an Octopus



Octopus arms are curvy like snakes. Each arm has **suction cups**. Suction cups stick to things. They help an octopus grab on to its food.

An octopus is soft and squishy. That's because it does not have any bones.

Are you ready for another strange fact? An octopus has three hearts.

How many hearts do you have?

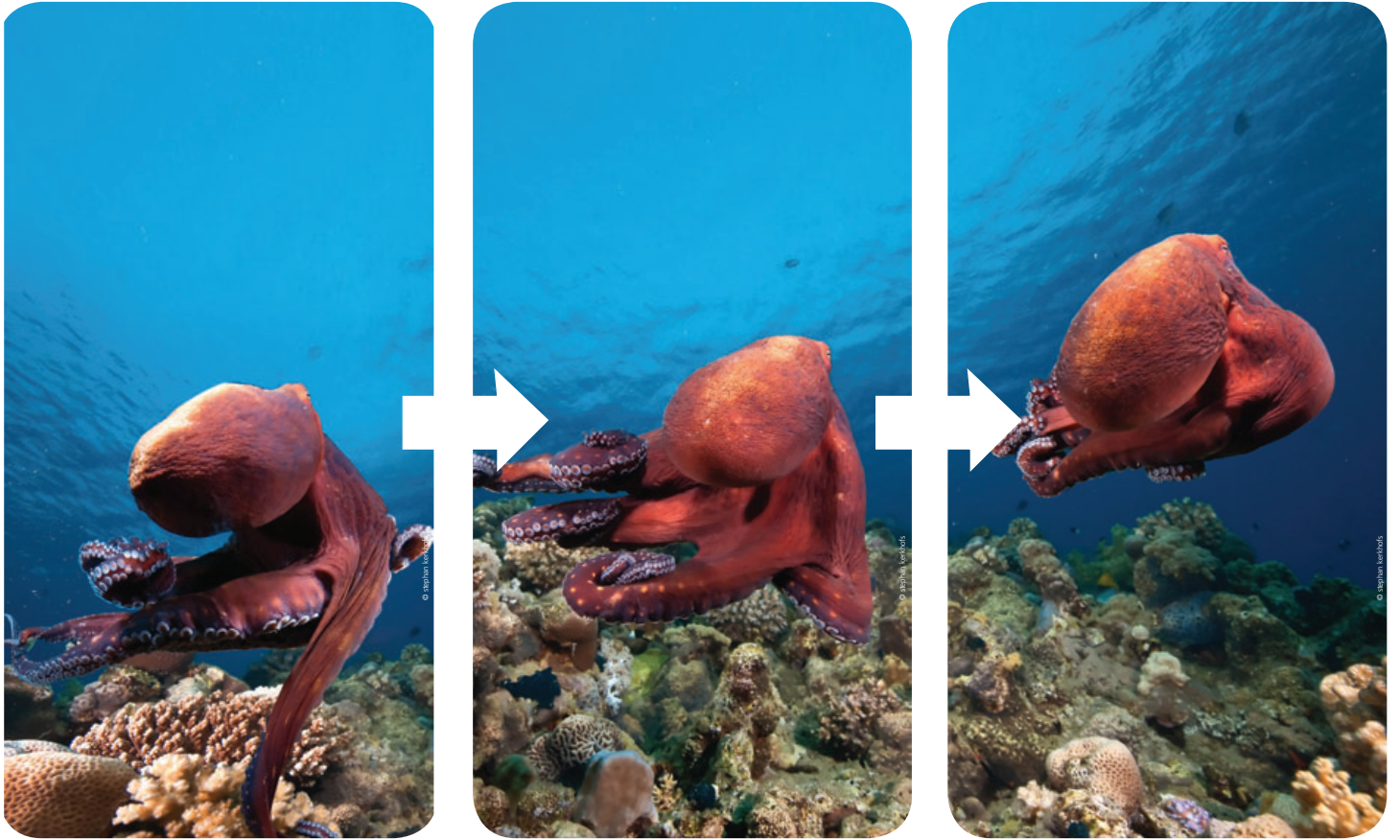




How Does an Octopus Move?

Octopuses swim through the water. They crawl on the sand and rocks. Some even tiptoe along on their arms. These are some of the ways octopuses move.

Octopus on the Move!







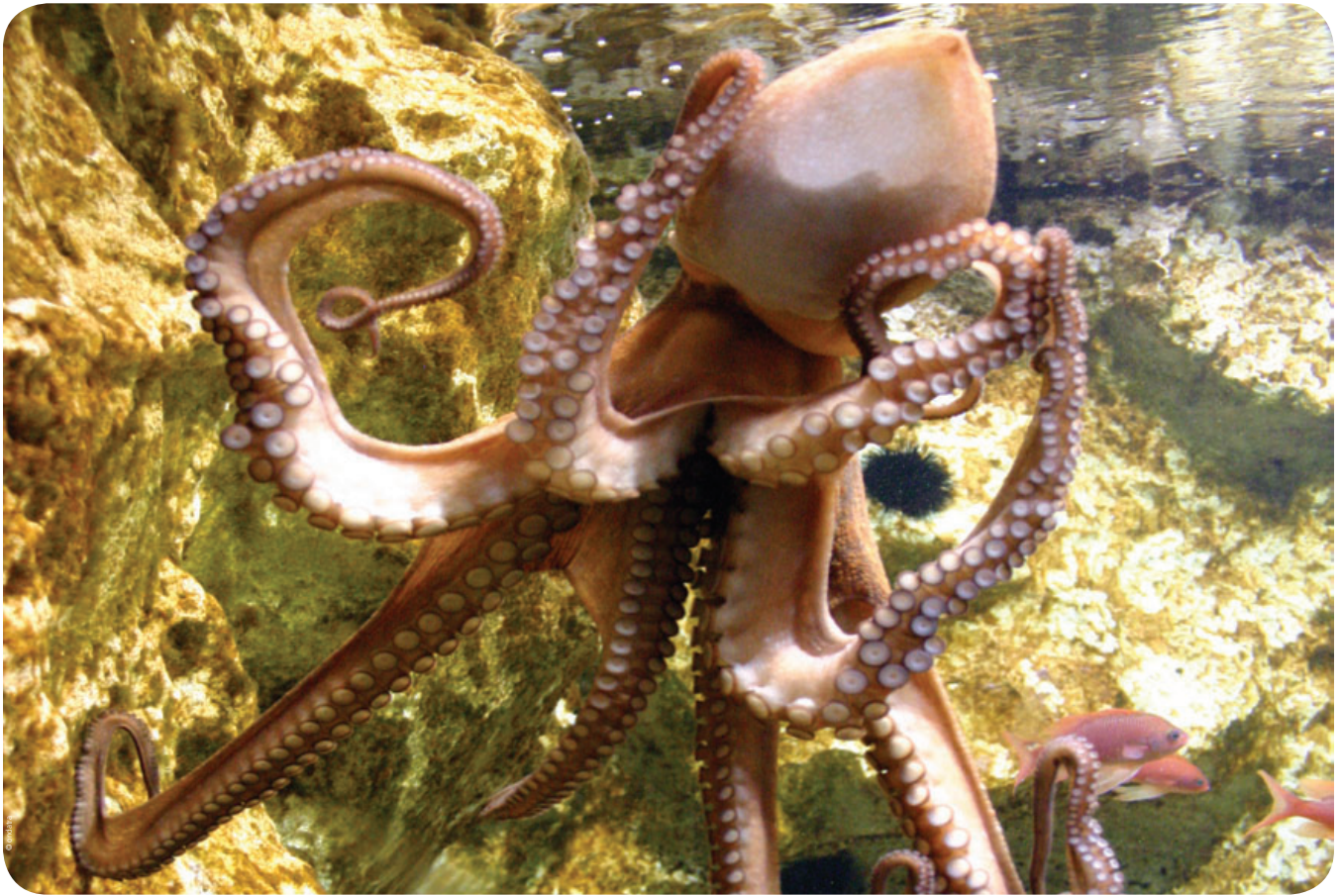
An octopus can move very fast. First, it sucks up water from the ocean. Then, it shoots out the water in a big blast. This blast pushes the octopus. Whoooosh!



How Does an Octopus Eat?

Octopuses eat sea animals. Look at the chart on this page. Do you eat any of these foods?

	What Octopuses Eat	
	Crab	An octopus breaks a crab's shell with its tongue.
	Fish	An octopus chews a fish with its teeth.
	Shrimp	An octopus bites a shrimp with its beak .



An octopus is good at catching food. It is very smart. It hides and waits for an animal to swim by. Then, it grabs the food with its arms. The animal sticks to the suction cups. It can't get away.

Octopuses sting other animals with **venom**. Venom is a kind of poison. It makes the animal become still. The animal stops fighting the octopus. Then it's dinner time!



How Does an Octopus Stay Safe?

Some animals eat octopuses. An octopus has lots of ways to stay safe. Sometimes the octopus runs away. An octopus can hide in its den. Where else do you think it could hide?



Animals That Eat Octopuses



Dolphin

A group of dolphins works as a team to catch an octopus.



Eel

An eel wraps its body around an octopus.



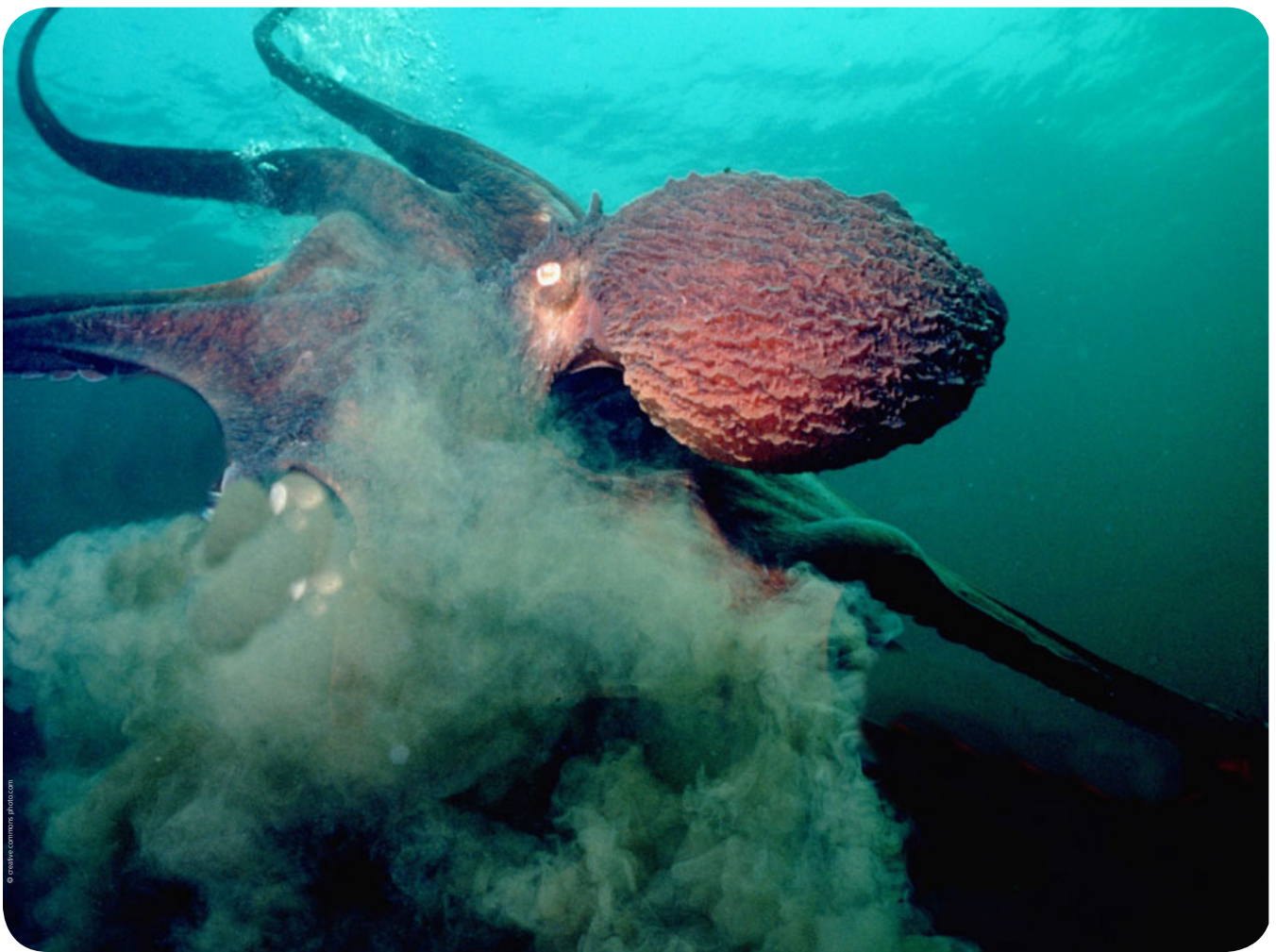
Shark

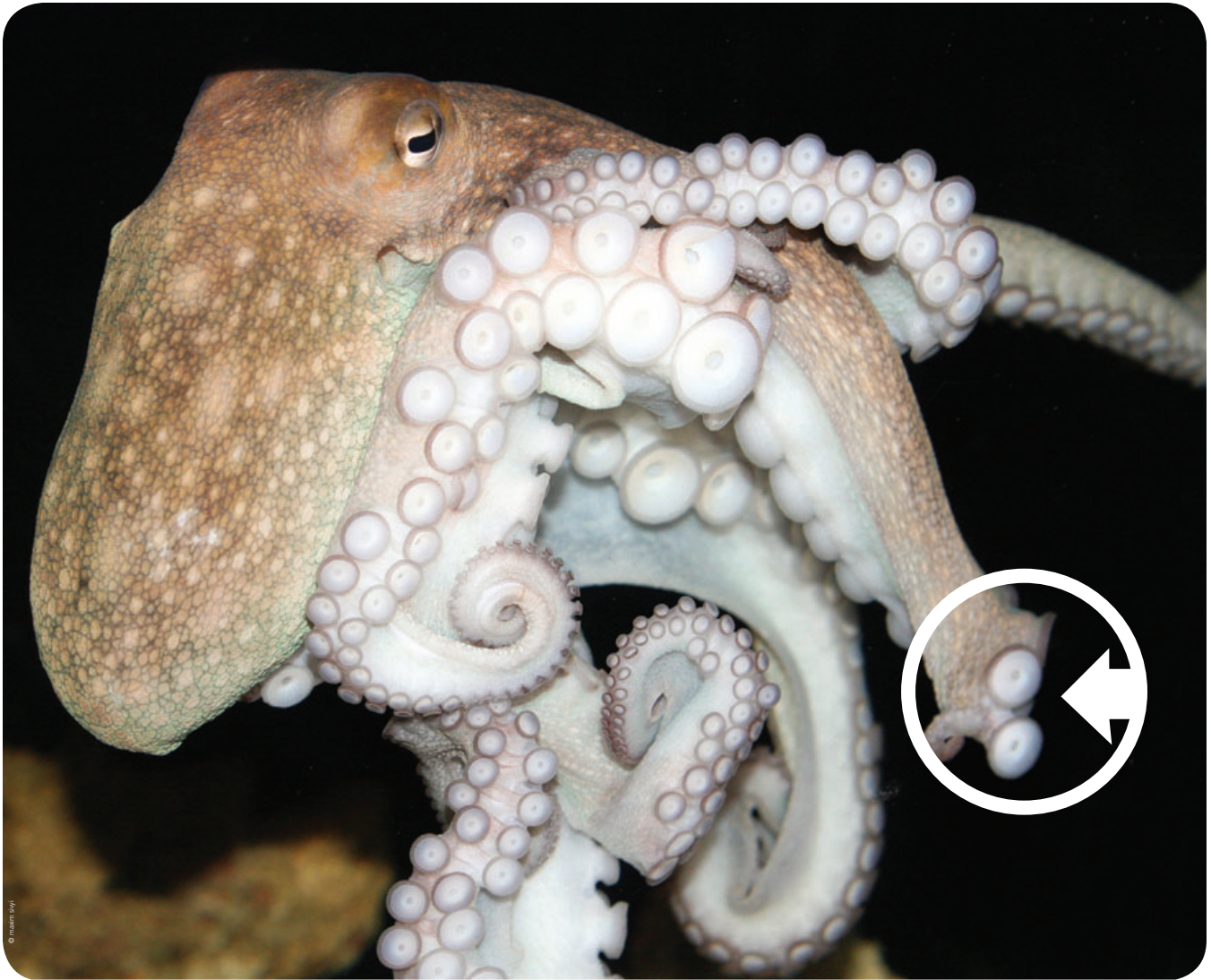
A shark bites an octopus with its teeth.



An octopus can also change its color. Then, it blends in with rocks and sand. Sharks and eels cannot see the octopus! The octopus in this picture is changing color. What color will it be when it's done?

An octopus has other tricks to stay safe. It can bite other animals. It can squirt **ink** out of its body. Look at the ink in this picture. It turns the water dark and cloudy. The shark or dolphin cannot see the octopus anymore. Now the octopus can swim away.



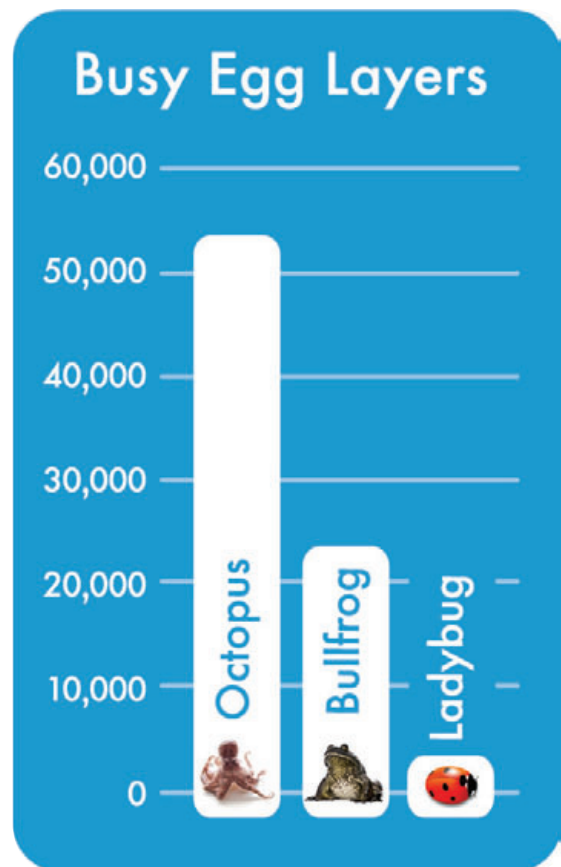


Sometimes octopuses get hurt in a fight. A dolphin might bite off the octopus's arm. But that's okay. The octopus can make another arm! It takes a few weeks for a new one to grow.



How Does an Octopus Have Babies?

Baby octopuses hatch from eggs. A mother octopus lays more than 50,000 eggs at a time. About 50,000 people live in a small city! Then, the mother watches over the eggs. She stays with them until the babies are born. She does not even leave to get food!





Octopus eggs are tiny. Some are only as big as a raindrop. Babies break out of the eggs. Then they swim away. The babies leave their parents. They grow up alone.

Before long, octopuses can hunt and have babies. They can live for many months. Some kinds can live for two or three years.



Glossary

beak: the mouth of an octopus

den: the home of an octopus

ink: a dark liquid

suction cup: a round sucker on an octopus's arm

venom: poison that an animal uses to hurt another animal