

Case study

Read the passage carefully and answer the following:

MAGICIAN OF THE SEA

by Kelly Hashway

What do three hearts, eight arms, and one huge brain add up to? An octopus, a creature that can do amazing things. Octopuses are extremely intelligent. They can learn new things just like humans. They've even learned a few tricks to get them out of sticky situations. If an octopus is threatened by a predator, such as a shark or bird, it can use some pretty incredible skills to get away. Octopuses don't have teeth or sharp claws to defend themselves. Instead, they use more clever ways to fool their attackers. Octopuses like to hide themselves in the sand on the bottom of the ocean floor. 'How?' you ask. Well, the octopus is like a chameleon because it can change the colour of its skin to match the sand. And this colour change, or camouflage, happens in less than a minute. Some octopuses like to stay in more shallow water where there are rocks and coral. Because octopuses are invertebrates, they can squeeze themselves into small spaces between the rocks to get out of reach of their predators. Another way an octopus can hide is by shooting ink. An octopus uses a part of its body called a siphon to shoot ink into the water. The ink forms a cloud that hides the octopus. By the time the ink clears and the predator can see again, the octopus has swum away or hidden. It's very much like a magician doing a vanishing act.

If you think that's a neat trick, then you'll love what else these creatures have up their sleeves. If an octopus is being attacked, it can actually make itself look like a venomous sea snake. It will bury itself in the sand, keeping two arms visible. It will change the colour of those arms to match a sea snake. But what if there's no time to hide? If an octopus is in trouble, it can break off one of its arms. The arm will then change colours and squirm around in the water to distract the predator while the octopus swims away to safety. Don't worry though. The octopus's arm will grow back. There is one kind of octopus that has venom to use in defence. The blue-ringed octopus is tiny; it could fit in the palm of your hand. Predators might think this size makes the octopus a great snack, but they know to stay away. The blue-ringed octopus is very poisonous and can kill predators much larger than itself, including humans. So the next time you see an octopus in the aquarium remember that inside that oversized head is a very large brain, making them a clever addition to the sea.

A. Choose the correct option.

1. The text talks about.....

- a. The lifestyle of octopus.**
- b. The cleverness and intelligence of octopus.**
- c. The food habits of octopus.**

d. The family of octopus.

2. How are an octopus and a chameleon alike?

- a. They both like to hide on the ocean floor.*
- b. They can both change the colour of their skin.*
- c. They are both invertebrates.*
- d. They both use their arms to kill predators.*

3. The octopus can break off its arm.....

- a. When it doesn't need it.*
- b. to collect food.*
- c. to escape from danger.*
- d. to move another place.*

4. Octopuses have hearts.

- a. three*
- b. eight*
- c. eleven*
- d. Fourteen*

B. Answer the following questions:

1. How does being an invertebrate help an octopus?

2. Why are the octopuses called magician of the sea?

3. Explain how shooting ink helps an octopus to escape from predators.

4. Write two ways mentioned in the passage by which the octopus can protect itself when in danger?

C. Find out the meaning of the following words or phrases from the passage:

1. Those who don't have any spine or back bone.

2. Animal that lives by preying on other animals.

3. Disguise-----

4. Venomous.....

