

## Octopuses

**Prompt: Octopuses need to protect themselves. Protect means to keep safe. Describe what octopuses can do to protect themselves. Support your answer with details from both texts.**



Octopuses live in coral reefs in the ocean. Coral reefs are brightly colored underwater structures, with hiding spots. Octopuses have 8 arms. These are called tentacles. Tentacles are slim and bendable. If a predator grabs a tentacle, it detaches. Detach means to break off. Then the octopus grows a new tentacle.

Octopuses squirt black ink. Then others cannot see it. An angry octopus turns bright colors. When afraid, it turns dark, spotted, or striped. They change colors to blend in. This is called camouflage. An octopus body can also change shape.

Octopuses are strong, fast swimmers. They can swim 25mph. Octopuses eat crabs and crayfish. Octopuses are smart. They have short and long-term memory. This means they recall some information for years, and some for a short while.

## Wonders of the Sea

The sea is filled with so much amazing life. Each creature uses different skills to survive. For example, an octopus can use camouflage. Animals use camouflage change color or shape to blend in with the area, hide or look dangerous. They can do this in just a few seconds!

For example, this mimic octopus tries to look dangerous so it makes itself look like a snake.



They can also escape by making themselves thin. They slip through small spaces that would trap other creatures. For example, in a coral reef structure, they can slip through a hole almost as small as a grape!