

Reading Comprehension

"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 have even learnt a few tricks to get them out of sticky situations, as for example, when it is afraid of a predator. As octopuses **don't have teeth or sharp claws** to defend themselves, they hide themselves in the sand on the bottom of the ocean floor. Do you want to know how they do that? Well, the octopus **is like a chameleon** because it can **change the color of its skin** to match the sand. This color change 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 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. It's like a magician doing a vanishing act.

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 color of those arms to match a sea snake. But 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 colors** and squirm around 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 defense. 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 it, including humans.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) What is special about the octopus' body?

- 2) Why are octopuses intelligent?

- 3) What happens to an octopus if it breaks off one of its arms? _____

- 4) How do blue-ringed octopuses defend themselves?

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Complete the graphic organizer: Include its habitat, abilities, likes, and the four ways it defends itself.

