



Octopus Fun Facts

Octopuses have a neural system that is spread out through their entire body! That's pretty much a fancy way of saying it can think with its head AND each of its arms. Actually, the arms are even able to transmit information to each other WITHOUT it having to go through the central "brain".

If you are a terrible person and chop off an octopus's arm - no worries, it'll grow back. The new arm that grows is just as effective as the one it lost.

Most octopuses can fit through anything larger than their beak as it's the only part of their body that cannot be squashed and stretched. The only exception are deep sea octopuses that have cartilage between their eyes. These octos can fit through anything larger than that piece of cartilage.

An octopus's suction cups have taste sensors - all 2000 of them.

Since an octopus's arms can think independently from each other, this also means their arms will sometimes get into fights with each other.

Octopuses are solitary animals.

This means they spend most of their life alone, with the exception of mating season which is a short interaction.

Despite their solitary nature, there is one place in Australian waters where octopuses have baffled scientists by living in community. It is suspected that it is due to the abundance of food in the area. However, the lack of shelter, except for one small area, led to octopuses choosing to tolerate each other for the sake of the buffet surrounding the community.

The octopus mother spends a quarter of her life caring for her eggs. She braids them and hangs them in her den, and spends the rest of her life wafting water through the eggs to oxygenate them. During this time - she does not eat.

An octopus mother dies shortly before her eggs hatch, often serving as her newborns' first meal.

Octopuses are mostly nocturnal.

Octopuses have blue blood.

When an octopus gets really depressed, it might actually chew off its own arm(s).



The male octopus's third right tentacle serves as his reproduction organ. He will detach this tentacle entirely during mating for the female to take with her.

The female octopus often "collects" sperm from several males and will choose which one she wishes to fertilize her eggs with.

Octopuses have three hearts.

An octopus's esophagus goes right through the center of its brain. This unfortunately means that if an octopus isn't careful and swallows a sharp object, it can puncture through the esophagus and into the brain, killing the poor octopus. This is a rare occurrence, but nonetheless a possibility.

Cephalopod intelligence evolved separately from every other "intelligent" life form on earth. This makes them dramatically unique, and this is probably the reason some people theorize that they come from space.

An octopus can recognize and identify different human faces.

Octopuses have been known to leave the water and "tide-pool hop" to hunt.

Octopuses have specialized skin muscles called papillae which allow them to texturize their skin with protrusions. This allows them to camouflage seamlessly in coral reefs.

Octopuses are in the cephalopod family.

Octopuses are able to compress water inside their limbs in order to create something called a hydroskeleton - think of it as a temporary skeleton made of water.

Octopuses have the shortest lifespan we know for its intelligence level. Most octopuses live around 2 years, the giant pacific octopus lives up to 4, and although we aren't sure, scientists suspect some deep sea octopuses may have longer lifespans.

The word "Octopus" is derived from Greek. "Octo" means eight and "pus" means "feet". Due to its Greek roots, the plural of octopus is technically "octopuses" or "octopodes". However, due to its common mispluralization as "octopi" - which is how it would be pluralized if it was Latin, "octopi" has also become an accepted pluralization of "octopus".