OUTRAGEOUS OCTOPUSES!



Five fantastic facts about the eight-legged undersea superstars...

Vanishing act

Masters of disguise, octopuses hide in plain sight from predators such as sharks by changing **colour** and **texture** to blend in with their surroundings. And some octopuses carry around shells to hide in (above right)!

2 Easy squeezy Octopuses don't have skeletons. They're made up of muscles and can pass through small spaces by pushing tiny bits of their bodies through at a time. Even the giant Pacific octopus, which is 9m across, can fit through an opening the size of a lemon!

Super suckers Octopuses have some

2,000 suckers lining their limbs. They help the animals pick up prey and cling to surfaces. Each one can separately grip objects, and they're all very strong. They can even 'taste' the water around them!

Blue blood

Special proteins in an octopus's blood turn it **blue**! The proteins help spread oxygen around the body. That's especially important for the deep-living **dumbo octopus**, which lives at depths of up to 4,800m, where oxygen is scarce.

Hocus pocus

The **ink** of an octopus is like a **protection potion**. It contains chemicals that sting a predator's eyes and dull its sense of smell. Some ink clouds are as big as the octopus's body, acting like a **decoy** to distract the predator as the real octopus flees.