

OLLIE THE OCTOPUS



Ollie lived on the rocks on the Aliwal Shoal.

He was a curious little octopus and when he saw a lot of activity near his rock he just had to go and see what was happening.

He came out of his hole using his 8 tentacles to move along the rocks.



The Aliwal Shoal is a rocky reef in the ocean off Umkomaas in South Africa.

It is very popular with SCUBA divers. It is also a marine protected area.



Using his 2 eyes, Ollie looked carefully at the strange creatures swimming about.



They had big flippers

and yellow things on their backs,

bubbles.

blowing

they were

and

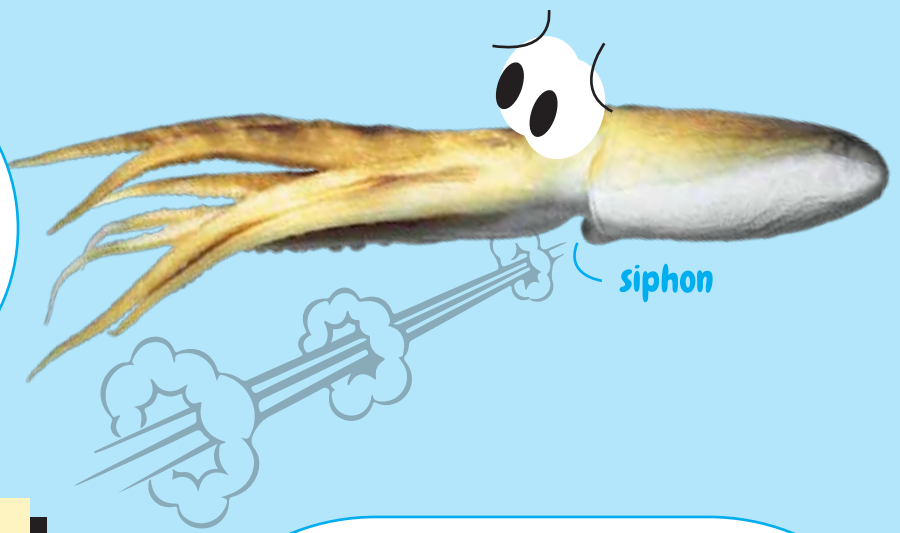


They didn't look like any fish he had ever seen and when they came towards him,

little Ollie was frightened and decided to get home quickly.

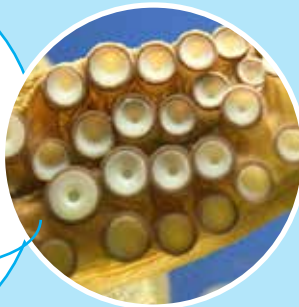
He first squirted out a jet of ink to hide himself,

and then using jet propulsion expelled some water through a siphon in his body, which made him move very quickly.



Later that day...

Feeling hungry, he crawled along the rocks and using his tentacles lined with suckers



This helped him to open the mussel and he ate it up with his mouth, that looks a little like a parrot's beak.

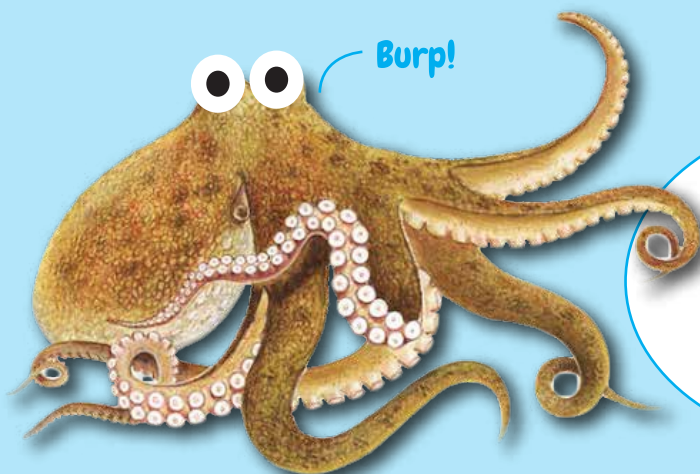
he pulled a big brown mussel off the rocks, drilled a tiny hole and injected some poison into it.



Ollie's beak



A parrot's beak

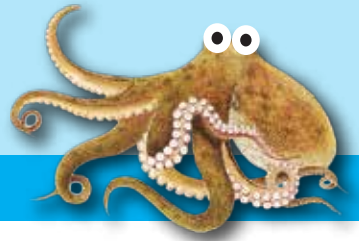


It was a tasty meal, so he looked for something more to eat and found a little crab which he ate as well.



If he keeps eating so much every day, I don't think he will be a little octopus for very long!

QUESTIONS



A

- 1) How many tentacles does an octopus have?
- 2) What strange creatures do you think Ollie saw?
- 3) Was he frightened?
- 4) How did he get away from the creatures?
- 5) What did he inject into his prey?
- 6) What kind of a mouth does an octopus have?

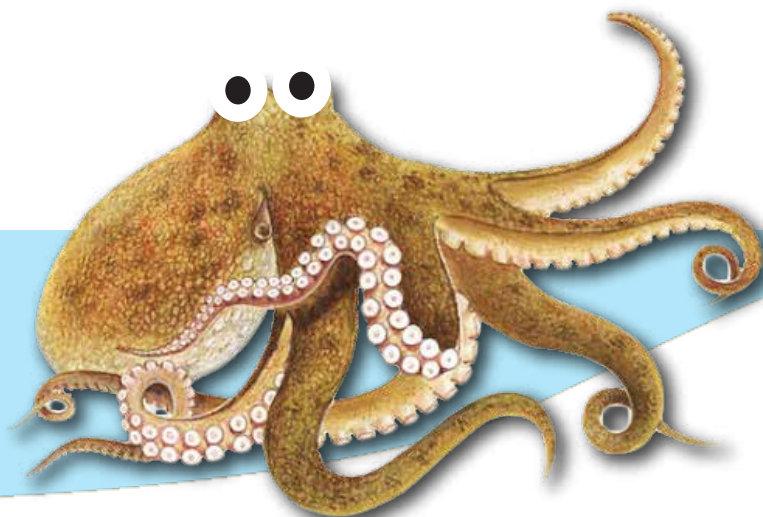
B

- 1) Give another word for:
 - a) Frightened
 - b) Captured
 - c) Tasty
- 2) Draw a spider graph with Ollie the Octopus in the middle and adjectives describing what Ollie looks like.

C

- 1) If you have 5 octopus – how many tentacles do they have altogether?
- 2) If 12 octopus get together how many eyes altogether?
- 3) 28 mussels on a rock, and Ollie eats 16, how many are left?
- 4) 22 little fishes are in a pool, with six octopus and five crayfish – how many animals are there in the pool?

Draw Ollie in his hole



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