

# ANIMAL BITES

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Learn about octopuses
- Help save the sea
- Tofish and chips recipe
- And loads more...

## DIVE INTO THE FASCINATING WORLD OF OCTOPUSES

Facts that will  
keep you octopied

Animal  
**Squad**

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[safeanimalsquad.org.nz](http://safeanimalsquad.org.nz)

# ALL ABOUT OCTOPUSES

**These mysterious creatures may be strange to look at, but they are incredible beings.**

They are extremely intelligent and experts at multitasking. They are sentient, meaning that they can feel pleasure and pain, just like you. Octopuses are found in every ocean in the world and vary in appearance and size. They are curious and have been known to play and form bonds with humans.

## THE LIFESPAN OF AN OCTOPUS

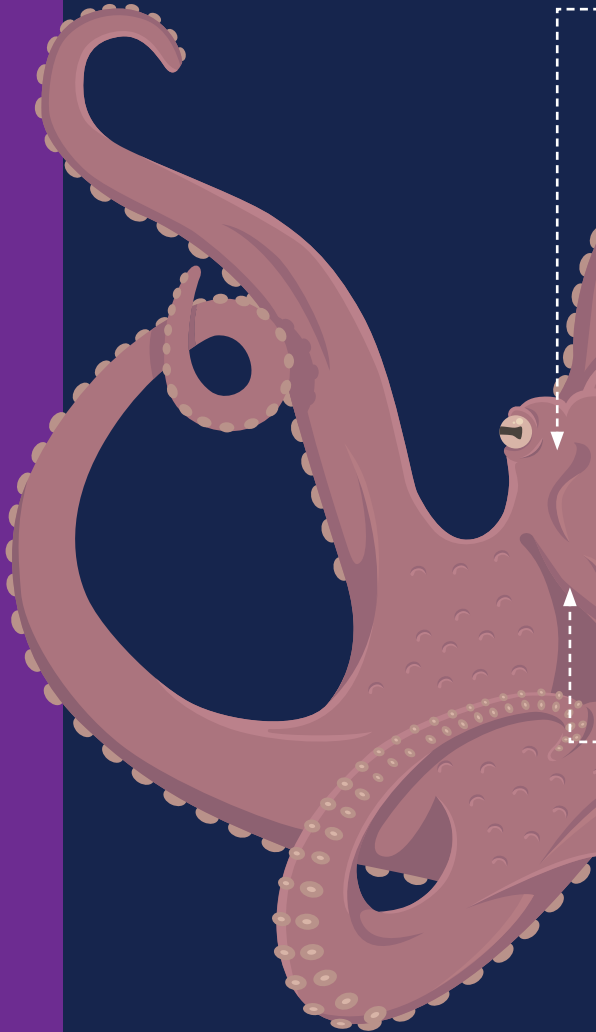
Depending on the species, octopuses can live up to five years. Both the males and females die shortly after they reproduce. Because the female is usually much larger than the male, she may gobble him up. The female won't eat while she guards and nurtures her eggs. She will die not long after her eggs hatch.

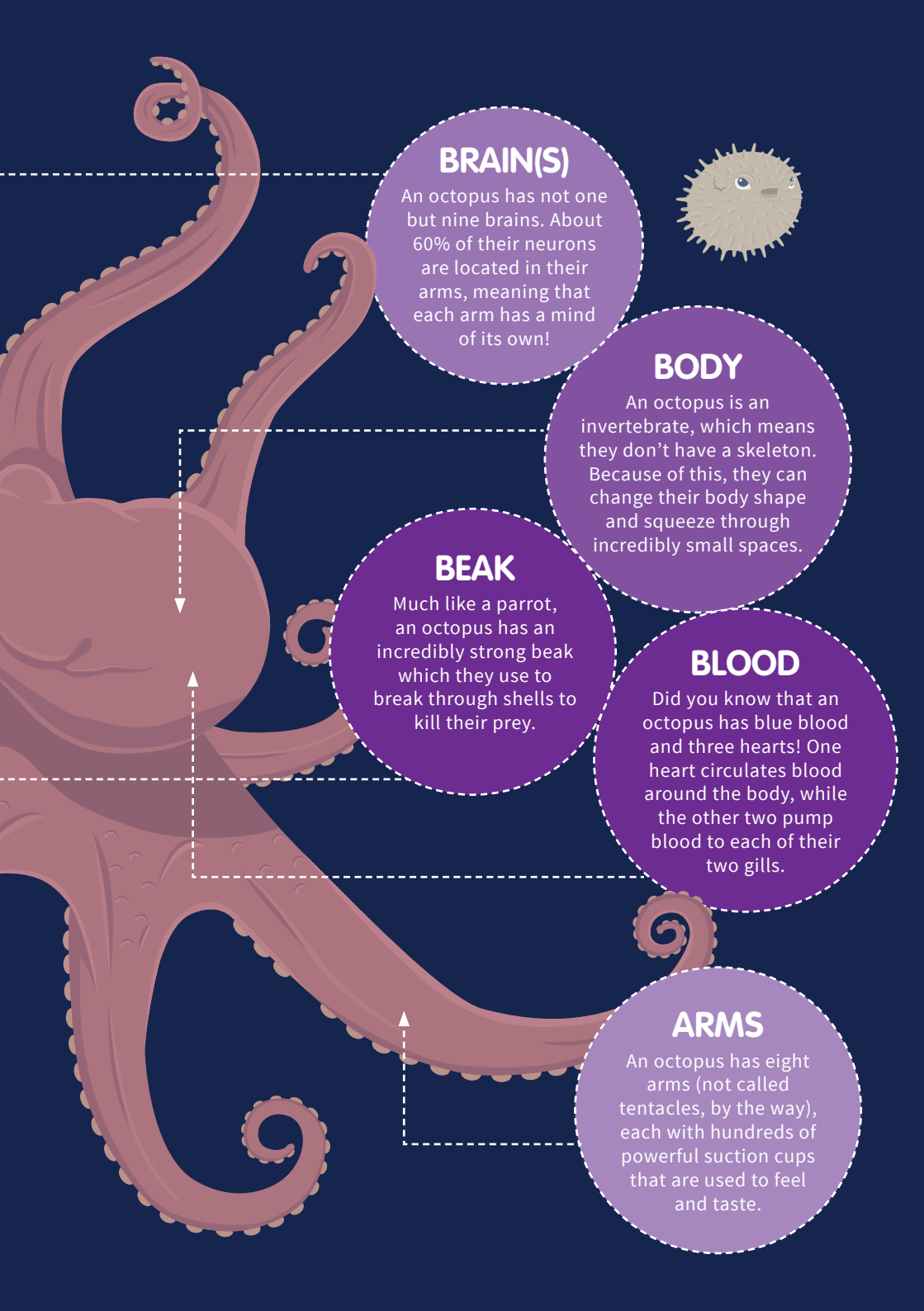
## WHAT DO YOU CALL MORE THAN ONE OCTOPUS?

The plural for octopus is octopuses, not octopi. This is because the word comes from the Greek language rather than Latin where many plurals end with an 'i' (the plural for cactus is cacti, for example).

## DID YOU KNOW?

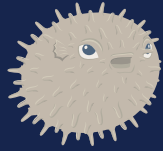
**A baby octopus can gain 5% of its weight each day?!**





## BRAIN(S)

An octopus has not one but nine brains. About 60% of their neurons are located in their arms, meaning that each arm has a mind of its own!



## BODY

An octopus is an invertebrate, which means they don't have a skeleton. Because of this, they can change their body shape and squeeze through incredibly small spaces.

## BEAK

Much like a parrot, an octopus has an incredibly strong beak which they use to break through shells to kill their prey.

## BLOOD

Did you know that an octopus has blue blood and three hearts! One heart circulates blood around the body, while the other two pump blood to each of their two gills.

## ARMS

An octopus has eight arms (not called tentacles, by the way), each with hundreds of powerful suction cups that are used to feel and taste.

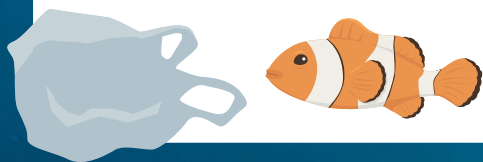
# OCTOPUSES IN TROUBLE

Thankfully, octopuses are not considered endangered, but their populations are quickly declining due to human activity. We threaten them by polluting their home and fishing.



## POLLUTION

Rubbish hurts and kills sea life. It also pollutes the ecosystems that they depend on for food and shelter. Octopuses and other sea life can get trapped in rubbish or think it's a tasty snack. Much of this rubbish will still be there even after several of our lifetimes.



## FISHING

When it comes to ocean threats, commercial fishing is by far the biggest killer of sea life. Over one third of the world's fish populations are overfished and another 60% are fished to maximum capacity. Octopuses are commonly caught in fishing nets (along with other fish) and are considered as 'bycatch'. Bycatch animals are not wanted by the fishers, and often die in the nets or on the boat. These animal's bodies are thrown overboard.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Most of the rubbish found in the ocean comes from fishing boats, including abandoned lures, hooks, lines and nets (also known as "ghost nets"). Octopuses and other marine life get caught in these nets and starve.





# HOW YOU CAN HELP MARINE LIFE

## STOP EATING SEAFOOD

The best way to help octopuses, as well as all other sea life, is to not eat them! Not only will there be more fish in the sea, but you will not be supporting the fishing industry that causes harm to sea creatures and contributes to dangerous pollution in our oceans. You can try plant-based alternatives instead. Check out our delicious tofish and chips recipe.

## BEACH CLEAN

Collecting rubbish and disposing of it properly can save lives. Rubbish left on or near the beach can be taken out to sea by the tide or wind. You can organise or join a beach clean near you! Check out our online action kit for more info –

[www.safeanimalsquad.org.nz](http://www.safeanimalsquad.org.nz)

## ANIMAL SQUAD PROFILE

### Favourite animal:

Dogs

### What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

I became interested in helping animals when I lived on a lifestyle block. I used to play with the baby chickens. I became more interested when I heard that marine animals were dying because of litter.

### What is your favourite veg food?

Hummus and carrots.

### Anything you want to share about animals?

I love animals and have done for forever. My dad takes in strays and looks after them. I help care for them when I stay. I love animals because I like to take care of them. They should have a good life just like humans.



Name: **Laney**

Age: **11**

# KIND FOOD TOFISH & CHIPS

## Ingredients

1 packet of firm tofu

1 cup of water

2 tbsp of soy sauce

¼ cup of lemon juice

3 sheets of nori seaweed  
(optional)

¼ cup of rice flour

½ tsp of salt

½ tsp of garlic powder

½ tsp of onion powder

1 tbsp of nutritional yeast

½ cup of breadcrumbs

## Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees Celsius.
2. Cut tofu longways into three pieces.
3. Mix together the soy sauce, lemon juice and half of the water.
4. Marinate the tofu in the sauce for 1 hour.
5. If using, cut the seaweed to fit and stick to the tofu slices.
6. Mix the flour, salt, garlic powder, onion powder and nutritional yeast.
7. Add the rest of the water and mix until there are no lumps.
8. Dunk the tofu into the batter, making sure it is well coated, then cover with breadcrumbs.
9. Place on a baking tray lined with baking paper.
10. Bake for about 20 minutes or until golden brown.
11. Serve with chips and tomato sauce.



## Ocean critter search

Each of these sea creatures are hidden in this newsletter.

Can you  
spot all  
of them?



# GAMES/ PUZZLES



## Message in a bottle

Break the code and discover the hidden message

A = 

E = 

H = 

I = 

K = 

M = 

O = 

R = 

S = 

T = 

V = 

W = 



# ANIMAL SQUAD MEMBERS



## Isla (10)

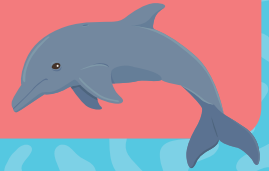
Isla started her vegan journey when she was just seven years old. Last year she did a speech on the dark side of the meat industry. Thanks for spreading the word, Isla!



## KidsFest Beach Clean

Kind kids gathered to collect rubbish in New Brighton, Christchurch to save the ocean and all those who live there.

Thank you  
to those who  
attended!



## JOIN SAFE ANIMAL SQUAD

If you are 8-14 you can join for free.

Sign up online at [SafeAnimalSquad.org.nz](https://SafeAnimalSquad.org.nz)

Or email [animalsquad@safe.org.nz](mailto:animalsquad@safe.org.nz)



For Animals  
Ngā Kararehe Haumarū

Animal  
Squad

Message in a bottle:  
Work with me  
to save the sea

PUZZLE PAGE  
ANSWERS