

SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

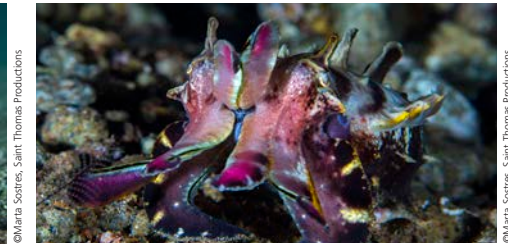
PART I The film, *Cephalopods: Aliens of the Deep*, features one of the most unique classes of animals on Earth. From the tool-using Coconut Octopus, to the quick-change artistry of the plucky Flamboyant Cuttlefish, to the devastatingly effective hunting skills of the Black-eyed Squid, you see the many wonders of these remarkable marine creatures.

Their name cephalopod comes from the Greek word “ceph,” meaning head, and “pod,” meaning foot. Their heads are attached to their tentacles, which they sometimes use like feet but mostly use as arms to capture their prey. Octopus have eight arms lined with suckers. Squid and cuttlefish also have eight arms with suckers as well as two tentacles that extend further than their arms and add to their ability to capture

prey. All cephalopods have highly sophisticated brains which influence their ability to feel and move.

Cephalopods have existed for about 530 million years and continue to evolve. Due to their remarkable abilities to adapt to human-induced changes in their environments, such as the impact of overfishing, cephalopods have managed to thrive in large numbers.

Here are three species featured in *Cephalopods: Aliens of the Deep*. Use the traits list and the charts below to profile each species. Write the numbers of the three traits that belong to each species in the left column of the chart. Use the right column to describe the benefit each trait provides.



Humboldt Squid

Coconut Octopus

Flamboyant Cuttlefish

TRAITS

1. Enormous eyes with round pupils
2. Burrows in sand
3. Ambles on seafloor on two of its eight legs
4. Highly developed eyes with w-shaped pupils
5. Communicate by flashing colors at one another
6. Hunts anything that moves
7. Large rectangle-shaped eyes
8. Naturally camouflaged in habitat but can display flashing color changes
9. Only marine invertebrate in the world known to use tools

Traits	HUMBOLDT SQUID

Traits	COCONUT OCTOPUS

Traits	FLAMBOYANT CUTTLEFISH

PART 2 Use the links your teacher will give you to learn more about cephalopods. Select one of the research topics below and record the fact you find most interesting about that topic on a separate sheet of paper. Use your research to create a cephalopod poster in print or digital format.

- Anatomy
- Behavior
- Habitat
- Evolution