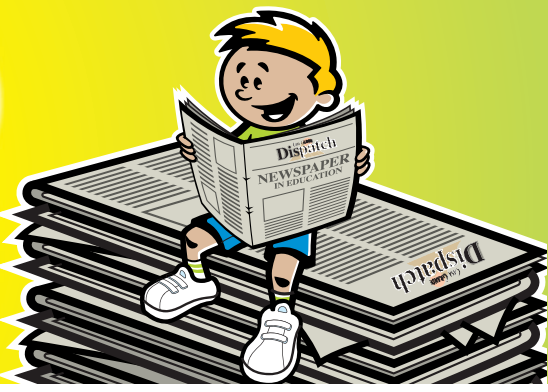


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WORLD OF WONDER

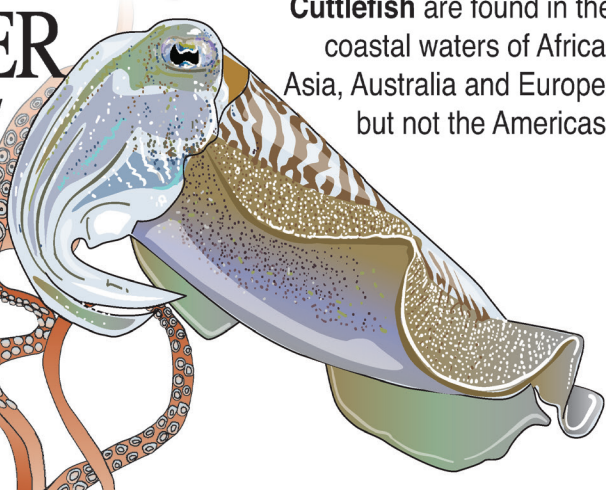
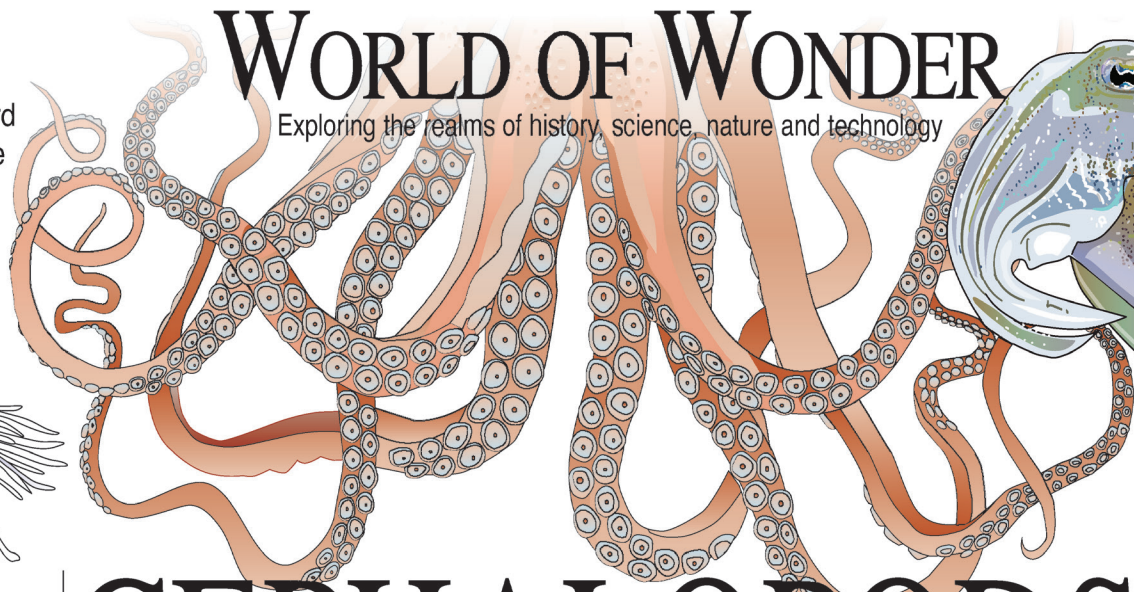
Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

Cuttlefish are found in the coastal waters of Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe, but not the Americas.

Unlike their close cousins, **nautiloids** have a large, hard shell. All nautiloids live in the Indo-Pacific region.



Chambered nautilus



CEPHALOPODS

Cephalopods are the most intelligent of all invertebrates (animals without backbones). Squids, octopuses, cuttlefish, the chambered nautilus and their relatives are incredibly diverse in size and lifestyle. These brainy mollusks have been evolving for about 500 million years. They have developed unique ways to catch prey, move, hide and communicate.

Cuttlefish have three hearts. Two are used to pump blood to their large gills, and the third circulates oxygenated blood to the rest of the body.

What's in a name?

The name **cephalopod** comes from the Greek and roughly translates as "head-foot." **Teuthology** is an old-fashioned word meaning "the study of cephalopods."

Octopuses were called "devilfish" by early mariners, who feared them.

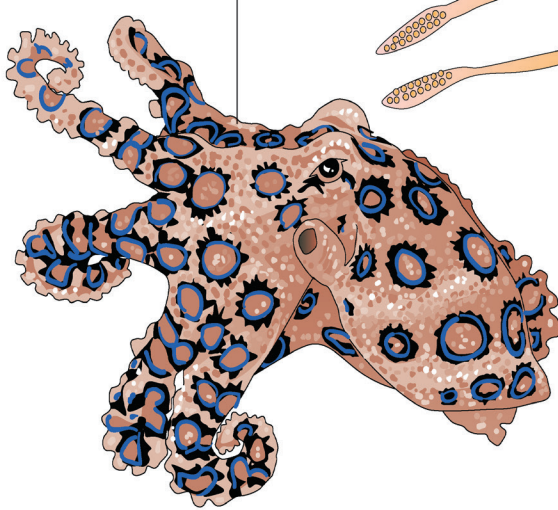
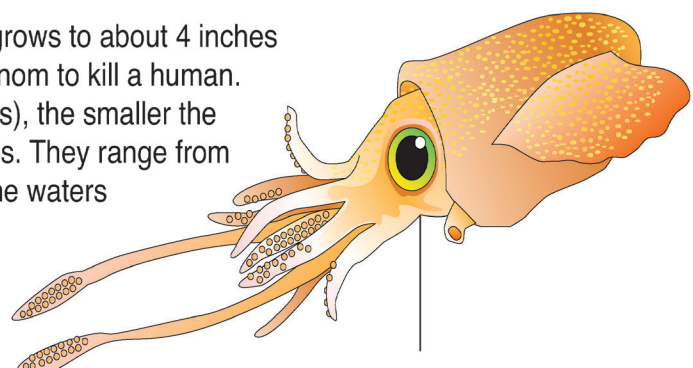
The basics

Cephalopods are **mollusks**. There are two living sub-classes of cephalopods.

Octopuses, squids, and cuttlefish belong to the **Coleoidea** subclass. These animals are characterized by a mollusk shell that is small or not there at all. The **nautilus** belongs to the **Nautiloidea** subclass and has a substantial shell.

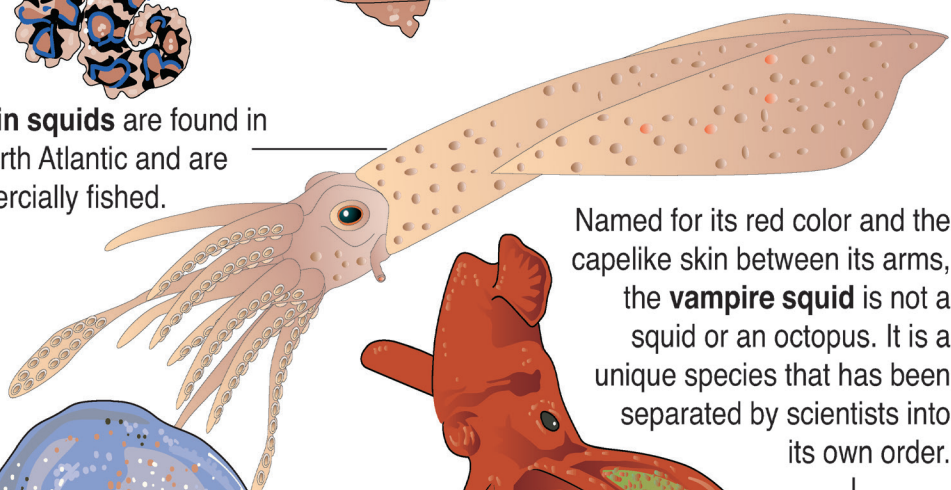
There are at least 800 living species of cephalopods, and more may yet be discovered.

The **blue-ringed octopus** grows to about 4 inches (10 cm) and has enough venom to kill a human. Generally (just like scorpions), the smaller the octopus, the more poisonous. They range from the Sea of Japan down to the waters of Australia.

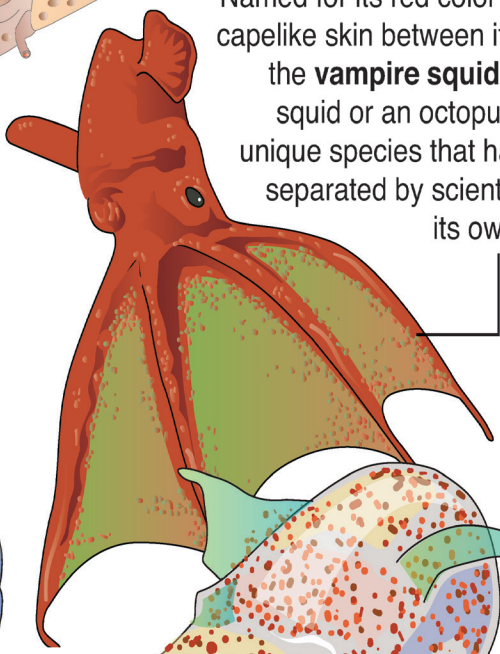


The **European squid**, or common squid (*Loligo vulgaris*), is found off the west coast of Africa and in Europe's North Sea. It is widely fished as food, to be breaded, fried and served as calamari.

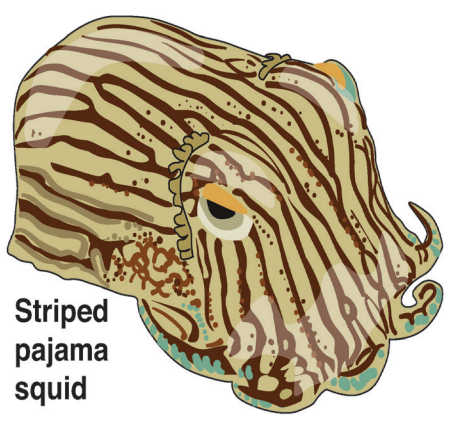
Longfin squids are found in the North Atlantic and are commercially fished.



Named for its red color and the capelike skin between its arms, the **vampire squid** is not a squid or an octopus. It is a unique species that has been separated by scientists into its own order.

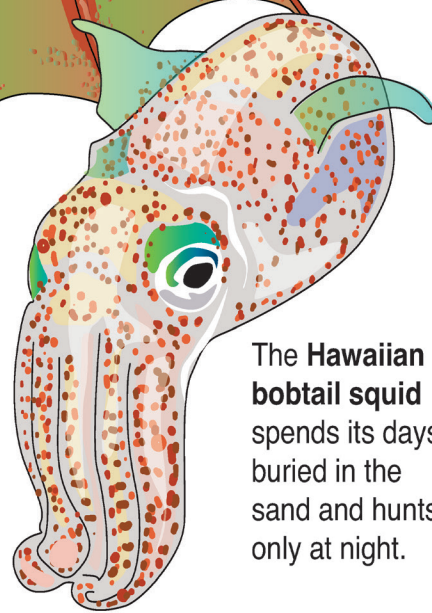


The **dumbo octopus** lives in very deep water. There are at least 15 species of dumbo octopuses. Like all umbrella octopuses, their arms are connected by webs of skin.



Striped pajama squid

Despite its name, this creature is actually a cuttlefish. It is poisonous and is found off the coasts of Australia.



The **Hawaiian bobtail squid** spends its days buried in the sand and hunts only at night.



Mycenaean vase

Over the centuries, many cultures have passed down myths and folk tales about giant octopuses and squid.

Did you know?

All cephalopods move by filling their body cavity with water and squirting it out through a **siphon**. This creates a jet of water that propels the animal in the opposite direction.

Nautiluses have as many as 90 tentacles.

Many cephalopods, including octopuses, squids and cuttlefish, have evolved impressive **camouflage** abilities. They are able to change the color and iridescence of their skin, flash them rapidly, or even create patterns to mimic the environment around them. These skills are not just for hiding, though. Cephalopods also change colors and textures as a warning to others or while trying to attract a mate.

Many types of squids, octopuses and cuttlefish are able to produce ink to cloud the water in order to confuse or irritate their predators.

Once hatched, most cephalopods are tiny, but they grow very quickly, doubling in size within two or three weeks.

The largest octopus is the North Pacific giant octopus, which can grow to be almost 15 feet (4.6 m) long.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://www.britannica.com>; <https://en.wikipedia.org>; <https://www.smithsonianmag.com>; <https://ucmp.berkeley.edu>; <https://www.livescience.com>; <https://oceana.org>

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