

Feature hunters

Read a magazine article, then hunt for the features that help readers.

ISSUE
05

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

LEARNING GOAL

Find the features of a non-fiction text and say how they help a reader.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can find eight non-fiction features.
- ☐ I can say what each feature is for.
- ☐ I can skim and scan to find facts fast.

1 Read the article

READ

Read the article twice. Leave the empty boxes for page 2.

The Amazing Octopus A

☐ Eight arms, three hearts and blue blood: meet the octopus!

BY THE ISSUE 05 NATURE DESK

Imagine having eight arms, three hearts and blue blood. For an octopus, that is completely normal! Octopuses are **invertebrates** ☐ and they belong to a group of animals called **molluscs**.

No bones about it ☐

An octopus has no bones at all. Its body is soft, so it can squeeze

through small gaps. Each of its eight arms is covered in suckers.

Masters of hiding ☐

An octopus can change the colour and the **texture** of its skin. This **camouflage** helps it to hide. If a **predator** still spots it, the octopus has one more trick: it squirts ink and escapes!

FACT FILE ☐

ARMS	8
HEARTS	3
BLOOD	blue
BONES	none
GROUP	mollusc
ESCAPE	squirts ink

GLOSSARY ☐

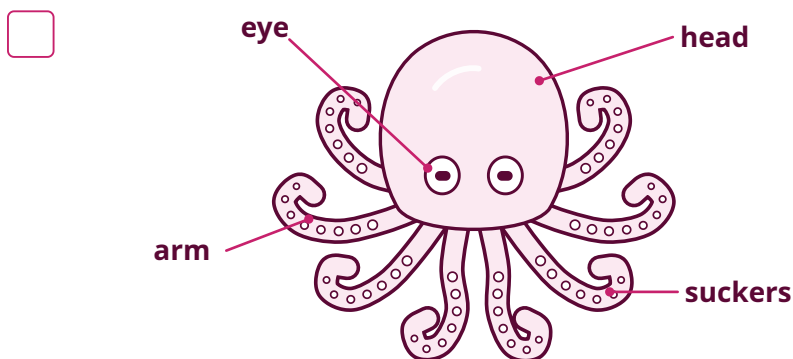
camouflage: colours or patterns that help an animal hide

invertebrate: an animal with no backbone

mollusc: one of a large group of soft-bodied animals

predator: an animal that hunts other animals for food

texture: how a surface feels, such as bumpy or smooth



☐ **Diagram 1:** the parts of an octopus. Can you count all eight arms?

Hunt the features



2 Feature hunt

CHECK

14 marks

1. **Find** each feature on page 1. Write its letter in the empty box beside it.
2. **Draw a line** from each feature to its job. A is done for you.

A Title	●	● explains hard words
B Standfirst	●	● says what one part is about
C Subheading (two boxes)	●	● names the topic of the text
D Labelled diagram	●	● gives quick facts in a box
E Caption	●	● sums up the text to hook you
F Fact box	●	● tells you what a picture shows
G Bold word	●	● shows a word is in the glossary
H Glossary	●	● shows the parts, with names

3 Skim and scan

THINK

5 marks

Skim = read fast for the main idea. **Scan** = hunt for one word or fact.

- a Skim page 1 for 30 seconds. What is the article mostly about?

- b How many hearts does an octopus have? _____

- c What colour is octopus blood? _____

- d What does an octopus squirt to escape? _____

- e Which word means "no backbone"? _____

4 Make your own fact box

WRITE

FACT FILE	ANIMAL _____
FACT 1	_____
FACT 2	_____
FACT 3	_____
CAPTION	_____

MY DRAWING

Choose an animal you know well. Write three true facts about it. Draw it here, then write a caption.