

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Science - Camouflage

Animals in the wild have a difficult life. They have to hunt for their food, instead of buying it in a supermarket, like we do! And, in turn, they are hunted by other animals. So they need to have special **strategies** to help them sneak up on their **prey** and also to hide from their **predators**. One of the methods they use is **camouflage**.

Camouflage means to disguise or hide and animals have many different ways to camouflage themselves:

Decorator crabs attach anemones, coral and anything else they can find, to their shells. Other animals use the color, shape or pattern on their bodies to **blend** into the background where they are not easily seen. Some insects, like the stick insects, look exactly like the leaves or branches they sit on, for example, and a Zebra's stripes make it difficult for predators to pick out individual animals to chase. Still others change their color. Arctic foxes, for instance, are brown in summer when they can hide among the trees but white in winter so that they are not easily seen against the snow. Arctic foxes are predators and changing their color makes it easier to get close to the animal they want to catch.

Probably one of the best at camouflaging itself is the octopus. Not only can the octopus change its color very quickly, but it also changes its texture and the patterns on its skin so that it matches the texture and patterns of the ocean floor.

The octopus also hides itself in a cloud of black ink which it releases if a predator gets too close. This gives it time to make its escape. As well as hiding the octopus from the predator, the ink also contains a chemical which affects the predator's sense of smell.

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## Science – Camouflage Questions

### A. Camouflage facts.

Explain in your own words how each of these animals uses camouflage:

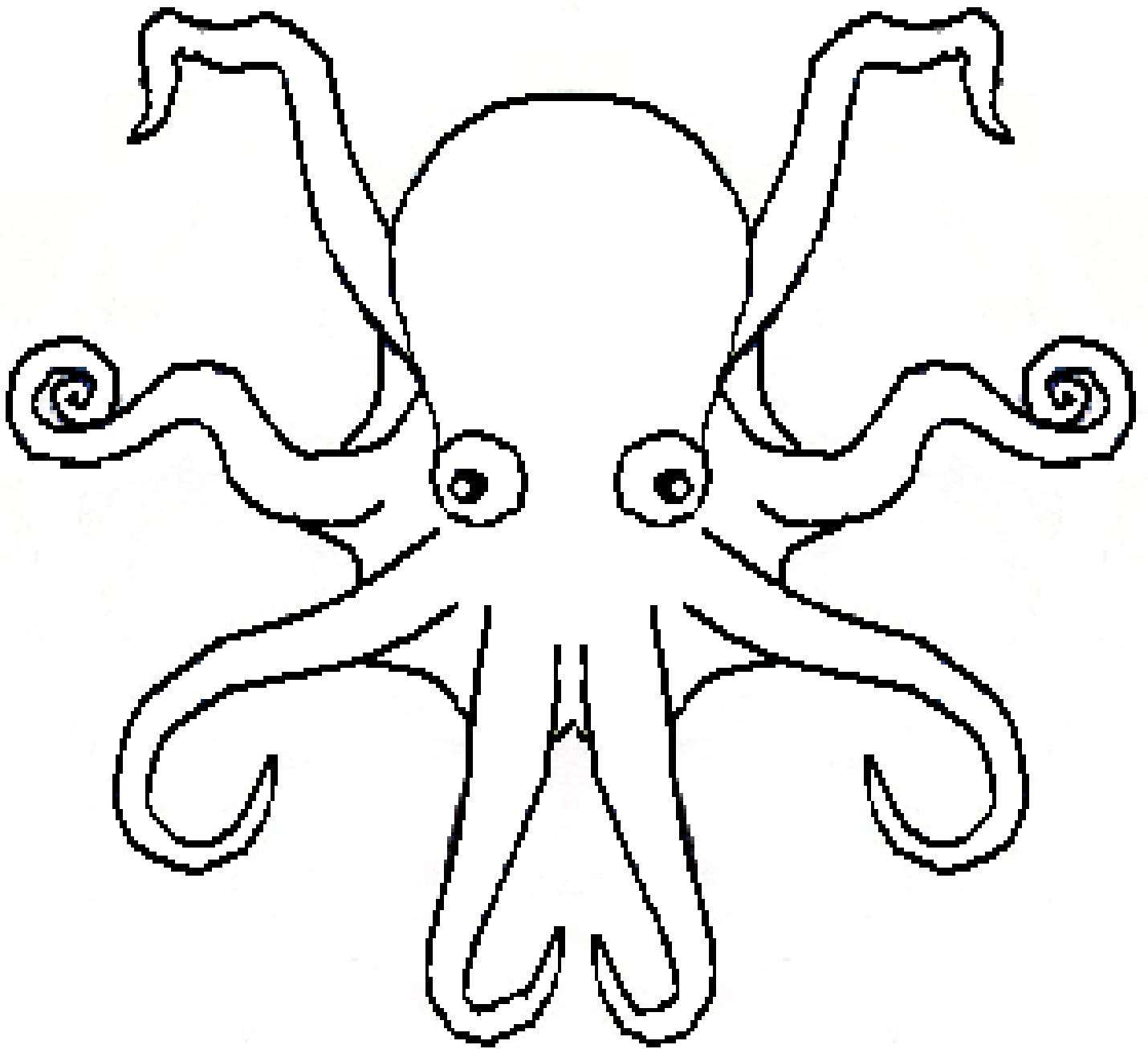
1. The decorator crab:
2. A stick insect:
3. A zebra:
4. An arctic fox:
5. An octopus:

### B. Camouflage the octopus.

On a large sheet of paper paint the ocean floor. You can add seaweed, sand, shells and rocks. Then carefully color the octopus on the next page so that it will blend in with the ocean floor you have created. When you have finished paste the octopus onto the painting. Put your paintings up on the wall and see whose octopus is hidden the best.

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## Science – Camouflage Answers

### Activity A.

1. The decorator crab places anemones, coral and other objects on its shell.
2. A stick insect is the color and shape of the branches in which it hides.
3. A zebra uses its stripes to hide among the herd.
4. An arctic fox changes color to blend with its surroundings.
5. An octopus changes its color, shape, pattern and texture and also uses ink to hide from its predators.

### Activity B.

This is a creative activity designed to make the children more aware of the advantages of camouflage.