




The answers are on the back, but don't cheat!
Figuring things out for yourself is half the fun!

ANSWERS

- Your head.** A giant squid's eyes are the largest in the animal kingdom. They help the squid find its prey in the near pitch-black of the deep sea.
- Near the surface of the ocean.** Using special nets, scientists have captured paralarval giant squid near the surface of the ocean off New Zealand. The young squid were found just a few meters below the surface while adults are believed to live between 200-800 meters (660-2640 feet) down.
- All of the above.** In fact, the bodies of giant squid have been accidentally brought up in fishermen's nets or washed ashore from southern New Zealand to northern Norway.
- Their arms and tentacles are very stretchy.** Scientists now record the length of each specimen's tough main body, called the mantle, so that they can make more accurate comparisons.
- Smaller than the females.** In general, female giant squid are about twice the size of the males. Their massive size may be linked to the fact that they can bear up to 10 million eggs when they reproduce.
- The sperm whale.** Scientists still don't know how the sperm whale finds giant squid, but sucker marks on whale skins and *Architeuthis* beaks in their stomachs prove that these mighty mammals dine upon the illusive invertebrate.
- Invertebrate and squid.** Several whales, including the blue, bowhead, right, fin, and sperm whale are known to exceed 18 meters (60 feet), the maximum overall length of a giant squid ever documented.
- Their muscles contain a weak ammonia solution.** Besides making them taste awful, the ammonia makes the giant squid neutrally buoyant, which helps the animal maintain its depth.
- Pseudo = false, morph = body.** While the predator fixes its attention on the pseudomorph, the squid quickly jets away.
- Giant axon.** The thicker this bundle of nerve fibers, the faster a squid can react to escape danger or capture prey. Despite their huge overall size, giant squid have thinner giant axons than many of their smaller relatives.
- Jet propulsion and flapping their fins.** Combining the two techniques, squids are among the fastest, most maneuverable creatures in the ocean.
- All four answers are correct.** Like octopuses, nautiluses, and cuttlefishes, squids are cephalopods. All cephalopods (cephal = head, pod(a) = foot) live in salt water and have three hearts. All squids have eight arms plus two tentacles that are shed in a very few species as they mature.
- Possible Answers:** Scylla, Soe Orm (sea monster), the Hydra, the Kraken, sea monk, monstrous attackers of ships and seamen.
- Feeding Tentacles** **Arms** **Eye** **Mantle** **Fins**

Beak **Head** **Funnel**

SCORE:

10-13 Archi-teuthologist!

7-9 Squid Searcher

4-6 Cephalopod Seeker

1-3 Mollusk Hunter

Bibliography

For Kids

Dussling, Jennifer. *Giant Squid: Mystery of the Deep*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1999. Ages 4-8

Markle, Sandra. *Outside and Inside Giant Squid*. New York: Walker & company, 2003. Ages 6-10

For High School Students and Adults

Ellis, Richard. *The Search for the Giant Squid*. New York: The Lyons Press, 1998.

Websites: To find a list of exciting giant squid websites, please visit www.sites.si.edu/giant_squid.htm

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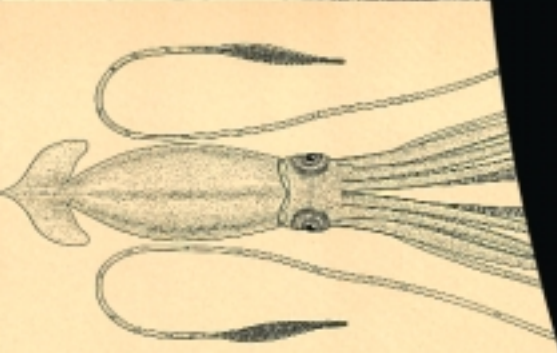
In search of

Giant Squid

Take the Giant Squid **Quiz!**



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How much do you know about *Architeuthis*, the giant squid?

Test your knowledge as a **teuthologist** (squid researcher) by answering the questions inside.

1) A giant squid's eyes can reach the size of

- a grapefruit.
- your head.
- a beach ball.

4) Fill in the blank. It's easy to exaggerate the size of giant squid because

2) Newborn giant squid, or paralarvae, have been found

- on the seafloor.
- at the same depth as adults.
- near the surface of the ocean.
- in the arms of their parents.

3) The bodies of giant squid have washed ashore in

- New Zealand.
- Spain.
- Florida.
- South Africa.
- All of the above



5) Male giant squid are

- bigger than the females.
- smaller than the females.
- about the same size as the females.
- unlikely to ask for directions when lost.

6) The only known predator of adult *Architeuthis* is

- the great white shark.
- the polar bear.
- the sperm whale.

7) Circle all that apply. The giant squid is the world's longest

invertebrate. | animal. | squid.

8) You'll probably never be served a meal of giant squid. They taste disgusting because

- they live in salt water.
- their muscles contain a weak ammonia solution.
- they eat too much fast food.

9) When threatened, most squids will squirt out a blob of ink to distract the predator. Scientists call this squid-shaped blob of ink a **pseudomorph**, which is Greek for

- false body.
- vague shape.
- fake name.

12) Circle All v

10) Fill in the blank.
One reason scientists don't believe giant squid rely on great speed to capture their prey is because their

is thinner than those of better-known, very fast squid.

11) Circle all that apply. Squids move by

- flapping their fins.
- moving their arms.
- jet propulsion.
- creeping along the sea floor.
- hiring two guys and a truck.



le all that apply.
varieties of squids

live in salt water.

have eight arms.

are cephalopods.

have three hearts.

13) Over the centuries, *Architeuthis* may have been the origin of many stories about mythological creatures. List three such myths named in the exhibition.

1.

2.

3.

14) Fill in the blanks with the names of the parts of a squid.

