



OCTOPUS INFO

A California two-spot octopus (*Octopus bimaculoides*) has taken up residence in an aquarium focus tank at the Nature Center and Aquarium. With its complex brain, these creatures are considered one of the world's most intelligent invertebrates.

We thought it would be fun to share some quick facts about this octopus with you.

PLAY BALL!

The octopus enjoys playing with a golf-sized wiffle ball. It will grab the ball with a tentacle and pull it down to the bottom of the tank, then release it and watch it pop back up to the top!



25 INCHES

The California two-spot octopus has arms that can grow up to 25 inches long, while its body (mantle) can grow up to 7 inches in length.



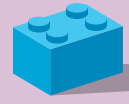
LEFTOVERS

After they have eaten, the octopus piles up leftover bits of shells and claws from their prey. Small piles of refuse called "middens" are formed at the entrance to their dens.



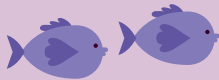
LEGOS

A favorite challenge. The octopus pulls apart Lego blocks to get tiny bits of shrimp hidden inside.



2 YEARS

The average lifespan for this species of octopus.



MASTER OF DISGUISE

The California two-spot octopus can camouflage easily to blend in with rocks, sand and beach pilings. Its name comes from the two blue spots under its real eyes - well placed markings that deter predators.

MIXED-USE PROPELLER

Their siphon is used to breathe, to expel waste, and to propel themselves.



ARM ADORNMENTS

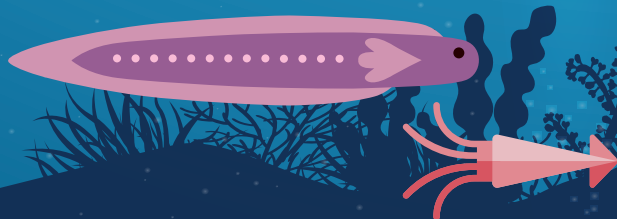
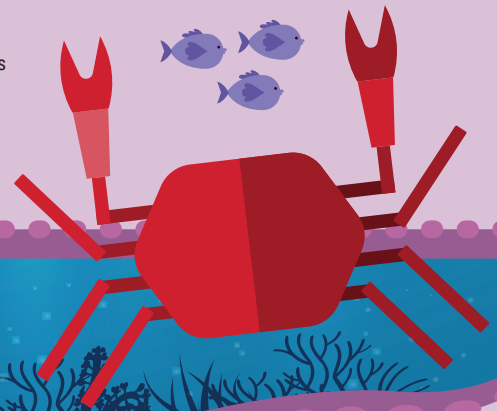
Each of the suckers adorning the octopus arms can move individually. They are used to feel and to taste as the octopus crawls across the ocean floor.

HIDE & SEEK

The octopus likes to curl up and hide. Visitors may walk right by, thinking the tank is empty and not noticing a little eye observing them from a green glass jar at the tank bottom. Other times, the octopus can put on quite the show, fluidly propelling itself across the tank.

MOLLUSKS & CRUSTACEANS

The octopus's favorite foods, although this species also eats small fish.



* The octopus was donated by the Marine Biological Laboratory/ Marine Resource Center at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

