

Outlandish Octopuses 古怪章鱼知多少

There are few creatures that **spark** our imagination like octopuses. With two wide, staring eyes, a big **bulbous** head, and eight **slimy tentacles**, they are unlike any other beast on Earth.

很少有动物像章鱼一样激发我们各种想象。有着一双瞪人的大眼睛、仿若灯泡的大头和 8 只黏滑的触手，地球上没其他动物长得像章鱼一样。

There are many different kinds of octopus. The largest is the giant [Pacific octopus](#), which can grow to be 9 meters across and weigh as much as 270 kilograms. By contrast, the [blue-ringed octopus](#) is tiny – just the size of a man’s hand – but it can kill an adult in minutes with its **poisonous saliva**.

章鱼有许多种类，其中最大的是北太平洋大章鱼。此种章鱼最长可长到 9 公尺，最重可达 270 公斤。相较之下，蓝环章鱼就显得非常娇小，只有一个男人的手掌大。可是牠有毒的唾液可以在几分钟之内杀死一名成年人！

Perhaps the most interesting thing about octopuses is the way they avoid **predators**. Octopuses can magically change their skin color to **blend in** with their surroundings. This usually leaves their **pursuer** wondering where they went, but if not, octopuses have a **backup** plan. They can **squirt** a cloud of black ink to **impair** their attackers’ vision and **dull** their sense of smell. Their soft bodies can **squeeze** into incredibly small **cracks** or holes where the predators are unable to follow. And if the attacker does **wound** the octopus, it’s not the end of the world. Octopuses can **regenerate** their arms without suffering any **permanent** damage.

关于章鱼最有趣的事情或许就是牠们躲避掠食者的妙招。章鱼可以像魔法般地改变肤色，使自己融入周遭环境，这通常就能让追捕者搞不清章鱼的去向。如果这招失败了，章鱼还有备案。牠们可以喷射出一团黑色墨汁，这种墨汁会妨碍攻击者的视力并减弱牠们的嗅觉。章鱼柔软的躯体可以挤进掠食者无法追进的细小裂缝或洞穴。就算攻击者真的伤到了章鱼，也不会是世界末日。章鱼的触腕可以再生而不会留下任何永久性伤害。

In addition to their unique physical gifts, octopuses also **possess** a sharp intellect. They can be taught to open jars, **navigate mazes**, and even play with a [Rubik’s Cube](#). It’s been reported that they can **mimic** the actions of other octopuses, and escape from their tanks by using their **keen** problem-solving skills. Due to their many odd talents, you’ve got to **hand it to** octopuses.

除了身体上独特的天赋之外，章鱼还拥有高度智慧。牠们能学会转开罐子，在迷宫中找出方向，甚至还会玩魔术方块！曾有新闻报导章鱼能模仿其他同类的动作，并运用牠们敏锐的问题解决能力从鱼缸中逃跑。有这么多奇奇怪怪技能的章鱼让你不由得对牠们肃然起敬！

— by Jamie Blackler

spark [spɑ:k] v. 激励; 鼓舞

poisonous [ˈpɔɪznəs] adj. 有毒的

predator [ˈpredətə] n. 食肉动物; 掠夺者

blend in: 融合; 融入 **cause (something) to be mixed with (something else)**

backup [ˈbækʌp] adj. 备用的

squeeze [skwiz] v. 榨出, 挤出

crack [kræk] n. 裂缝, 裂痕

wound [wʌnd] v. 使受伤; 伤害

regenerate [rɪˈdʒenəreɪt] v. 重建; 再生

permanent [ˈpɜ:mənənt] adj. 永久的, 永恒的

possess [pəˈzɛs] v. 拥有, 持有; 具有

navigate [ˈnævə,geɪt] v. 导航; (为...) 指引方向

mimic [ˈmɪmɪk] v. 模仿

More Information

outlandish [aʊtˈlændɪʃ] adj. 古怪的

bulbous [ˈbʌlbəs] adj. 又圆又胖的

slimy [ˈslaɪmɪ] adj. 黏滑的

tentacle [ˈtɛntəkl̩] n. 触须, 触手, 触角

saliva [səˈlaɪvə] n. 涎, 唾液

squirt [skwɜ:t] v. 喷射, 喷出

impair [ɪmˈpeɪr] v. 削弱; 减少

dull [dʌl] v. 弄钝; 使迟钝

maze [meɪz] n. 迷宫

keen [kin] adj. 敏锐的, 敏捷的

hand it to somebody: 给某人以应得的赞扬; 肯定某人的优点 **to recognize that someone deserves respect for what they did**