

# POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

## Lesson Plan

### Defense Mechanisms

Lesson Plan for *Octopuses*

Grade 1

#### Objective

To help students use the concept of defense mechanisms to understand how octopuses survive in the wild.

#### Things Needed

- *Octopuses* book
- Access to the “Octopuses” web page on the Pop! website:  
<https://popbooksonline.com/ocean-animals/octopuses>

#### Before the Activity

Open the “Octopuses” web page in your internet browser. Pull up the “Learn More” tab on the website. Read *Octopuses* out loud to students.

#### Activity

Introduce the concept of defense mechanisms to students. Explain that animals in the wild use different body parts or abilities to stay safe from other animals. These are called defense mechanisms. For example, some animals have claws and teeth that they can use to defend themselves. Students will learn about the defense mechanisms of octopuses.

Open the *Octopuses* book to the table of contents on page 3. Use the following prompts to guide students through using the table of contents:

- The table of contents lists the chapters in a book and the page number where each chapter begins. The chapter titles give us a hint about what sort of information we might find in each chapter. For example, if we want to learn about the defense mechanisms of octopuses, which chapter should we turn to? (Answer: Chapter 3, “Smart Defense”)
- Which page should we turn to? (Answer: page 10)



Turn to Chapter 3 (“Smart Defense”). Students should use the text and images in this chapter to answer the following question:

- What defense mechanisms can an octopus use to stay safe? (Possible Answers: Octopuses can hide by blending in with their environments. They can shoot out dark ink to hurt their attacker’s sense of taste or smell. They can hide in very tight places.)

One of an octopus’s defense mechanisms is camouflage. This is the ability to hide by blending in with the environment. Have students read the text and look at the image on the “Learn More” tab on the Pop! website. Ask the following question:

- How can octopuses use camouflage to stay safe from other animals? (Possible Answers: They can change the color and texture of their skin to look like rocks or other animals. They can hide in their environment.)

Lastly, invite students to think of other animals that have defense mechanisms. Call on a few volunteers to answer the following question:

- Can you think of another animal that has a defense mechanism? How does this ability/body part help the animal stay safe?

### **Evaluation**

Could students identify key details in the text about an octopus’s defense mechanisms?  
Could they name other animals’ defense mechanisms and explain how they worked?

### **Standards**

This lesson plan may be used to address the National Science Education Standards’ Content Standard C, grades K–4, and the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.3, 1.5).

