

Find the Octopus!

Great for ages 5-8

Lots of animals have large sharp eyes looking for their next meal! The best way to avoid that would be to blend into your background! Camouflaging is an excellent way to avoid a hungry predator's eye. The giant pacific octopus is an excellent hider. They can blend into their background with ease. They change their colours and textures to blend with everything from rocks to kelp!



This activity comes in two parts. Firstly, your kids can colour in a blank octopus template any colour they want. Then colour the other octopus cutouts in a solid colour that you have around your home.

Something like a kitchen table or a bookshelf or even your fridge!

Materials Needed:

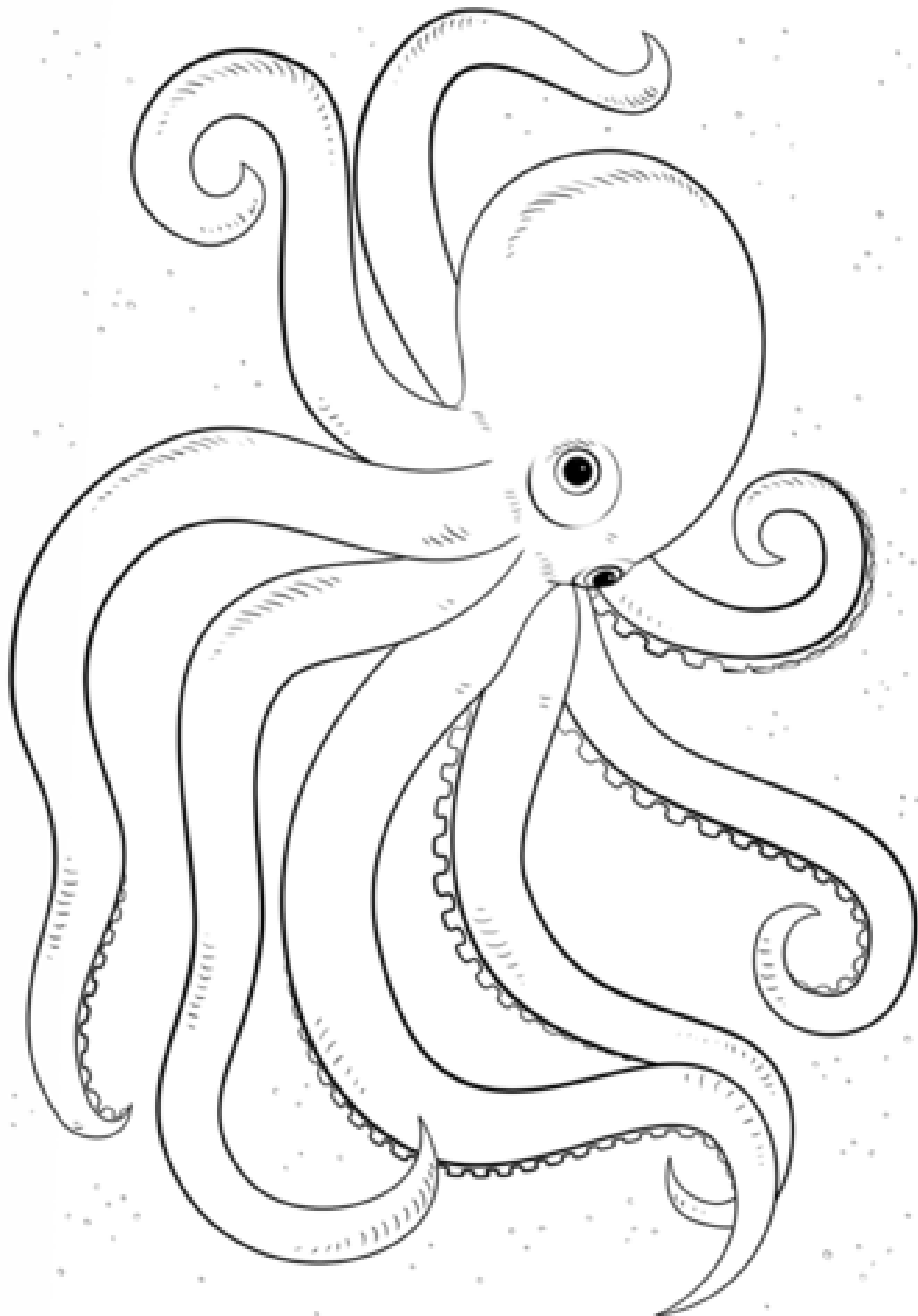
- Colouring pencils or colouring markers
- Blank Octopus printouts (scroll down!)
- Scissors

Steps:

- Print out a few octopus templates.
- Have your kids colour half of the templates in any colour combination they want, and the other half something that is similar to what you have around the home. Ex. Table, fridge, wall, bookshelf
- Cut out the octopus cut outs
- After colouring, have your kids close their eyes. Go around your home and put the octopus on things, matching some to the colour of what you have, and others in random places.
 - White octopus on a white fridge, black octopus on a black shelf, etc.
- Tell your kids to go find them!
- After they've found all of them, ask your kids which ones were harder to find. Why do they think that?

Tips:

- Don't like octopuses? No problem! Sub in chameleons, or halibut, or snakes!
- Have your kids brainstorm other animals that camouflage with their surroundings. Have them do research online or in any wildlife books
- Challenge your kids to blend in! Have them change into different clothes and blend into their surroundings. Maybe one colour works, or a baggy sweater could work to blend into some curtains!



Sources:

Tchompalov, Vlad. Photo: <https://unsplash.com/photos/NpQSAv29evU>

London, Lena. Photo: <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/cartoon-octopus>

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