



Gr-8-ful Octopus

Materials:

- Cardboard Tube- toilet paper roll or a paper towel roll cut in half
- Scissors
- Coloring/painting supplies
- Markers

Procedure:

- Gather all of your decorating supplies and a cardboard roll about 5 inches long
- Octopuses have 8 arms. Mark off 8 lines for arms around the bottom of your octopus about $\frac{1}{2}$ way up your cardboard tube. Depending on your tube each arm is about 2cm wide.
- With the help of a grown up, cut along your marked lines- your octopus now has 8 arms!
- Take a pen or pencil and wrap each arm around the pencil to curl up the arms
- Get creative! Color or paint your octopus whatever color you would like. Octopodes (fancy word for multiple octopus) are masters of camouflage and hide where they live. They can change the color and pattern of their skin using chromatophores in their skin. They can be dark, light, striped or even spotted! They can change their skin very quickly so feel free to get colorful and fun with the decorating of your octopus.
- Octopodes have strong suction cups that help them hold onto rocks and hunt for their food. If you would like add some suction cups to the bottom of your octopus' arms by coloring by dotting with your markers.
- Don't forget to give your octopus 2 eyes as well.

Follow Up Questions:

- Octopuses are pretty solitary and like to live alone. They often hide in caves to stay safe.
 - Do you think your octopus would be good at social distancing?
- How many arms does your octopus have?
 - Can you think of 8 things in your life that you are grateful about? How about things that make you happy or things that help you survive like an octopus does?

Share what you made and something you are grateful for with us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter @neaq!

Learning level:

- K-2

Vocabulary:

- Octopodes – more than one octopus
- Camouflage – blending in or hiding in your surroundings to keep safe from predators
- Chromatophores – special cells in octopus skin that lets them change color and texture
- Solitary – being to themselves, not being social

Duration:

- Variable ~15mins

Step by Step Instructions

