

THE LITTLE OCTOPUS SWIMS UP TO THE SURFACE.

Little octopuses swim toward the sunlight, feeding on plankton. Ready to live independently, they have a mouth with a beak and eight tentacles. When it reaches its mother's age, it will be 16 feet long.

The current is taking me upwards!

Little Octopus can now admire from above the colors of the anemones, corals, and algae-covered rocks. Reefs, mostly off tropical island coasts with temperatures around 77°F, are made mainly of branch-like corals. The largest is the Great Barrier Reef off Australia.

Don't worry, Little Octopus. On the surface, the sun is warm and there's plenty to eat ...

CORAL REEFS ARE BEAUTIFUL!

AN OCTOPUS HAS THREE HEARTS.

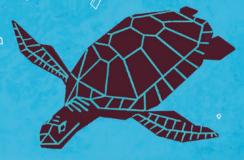
This doesn't mean Little Octopus is kind. Octopuses are loners, looking around only to hunt. Little Octopus finds a gap between rocks, tidies up mussel shells, and crawls into its hiding place to watch.

Hey! Someone's taking my anemone!

10h

NEMONE

64



REEFS TEEM WITH LIFE.

The fish among the corals are colorful! Occasionally, a turtle, ray, or shark swims through. On the seabed, a hermit crab is moving into a larger shell, taking its anemone with it. It feeds it scraps while the anemone protects it with its stinging tentacles.

> If that octopus sees me, I'm done for sure!

> > Steles Martines

LITTLE OCTOPUS SLEEPS DURING THE DAY.

Little Octopus hunts after sunset. To sleep, it curls up in its rocky hideout, gripping the seabed with suction cups to stay put. Its sleep is restless, its body changing color-biologists say octopuses dream. I wonder what it dreams about ...

DOLPHIN

I'm hungry for some crab with seaweed. Yum!

MANY FISH REST HAPPILY ON THE SEABED.

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Moray eels and lionfish, for example, nap peacefully during the day. Other fish, though, can never relax - thanks to the ocean whitetip shark, which hunts nonstop! Its prey sleeps so lightly that even a splash can wake them. Dolphins have a clever trick to stay alert - they sleep with half of their brain and stay awake with the other half.

SHARK

MORAYEE

THE OCEAN IS NEVER AT REST.

The Moon controls the ocean's movements, with the Sun's help. Tides happen due to gravity. As Earth spins, the tide moves in and out, seen best on the coast. This happens twice a day. Can you tell if it's high or low tide?

THE UNDERSEA WORLD IS IN CONSTANT MOTION.

Whales and turtles travel thousands of miles. Sometimes, young giant octopuses move from shallow to deep waters. They change color to show how they feel. Little Octopus turns red when angry and white when scared.

Hey Little Octopus, what's the matter?

TURTLES

SEA GUG

I hope we won't stay dry for long ...

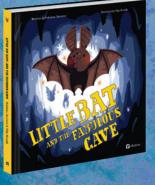
STARFISH

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LITTLE OCTOPUS AND THE VAST OCEAN



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A hermit crab is moving its anemone, a school of herrings is escaping a sharp-toothed shark, and on a coral reef, a little octopus is hatching from its egg. Even though it's still small, Little Octopus can already do amazing things. Let's gently take it by a tentacle and join its adventure!



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