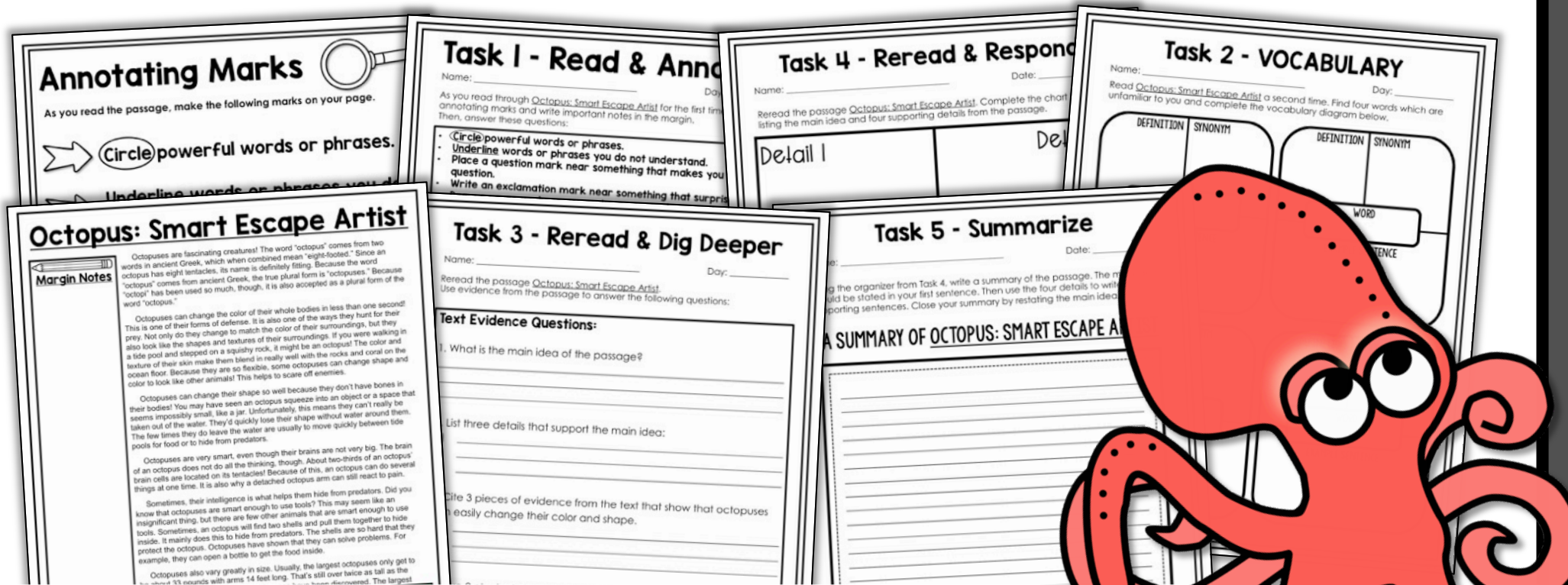


OCTOPUS



DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT

2 Different Reading Levels

High-Interest Passage!

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Octopus: Smart Escape Artist

Margin Notes

Octopuses are very interesting! The word "octopus" comes from two words in ancient Greek. These two words mean "eight-footed." Since an octopus has eight tentacles, its name is perfect. Because the word "octopus" comes from ancient Greek, the true plural form is "octopuses." "Octopi" is also used as a plural form of the word "octopus."

Octopuses can change the color of their whole body in less than one second! This is one way they protect themselves. It is also one of the ways they hunt for prey. They match the color of their surroundings. They also match the textures of the things around them. If you were walking on a squishy rock, it might be an octopus! The color and texture of their skin help them blend in really well with the rocks and coral on the ocean floor. Octopuses are very flexible. Some can change shape and size to fit into tiny places. This helps to scare off enemies.

Octopuses can change their shape so well because they don't have bones in their bodies! You may have seen an octopus fit into an object or a space that seems impossibly small, like a jar. Unfortunately, this means they can't really be taken out of the water. They'd quickly lose their shape without water around them. The few times they do leave the water are usually to move quickly between tide pools for food or to hide from predators.

Octopuses are very smart. Their brains are not very big. The brain of an octopus does not do all the thinking, though. About two-thirds of an octopus's brain cells are located on its tentacles! Because of this, an octopus can do several things at one time. It is also why a detached octopus arm can still react to pain.

Because they are so smart, it's easier for octopuses to use tools. There are few other animals that are smart enough to use tools. Sometimes, an octopus will find a bottle and use it to get the food inside. The shells are so hard that octopuses have shown that they can open a bottle to get the food inside.

Octopuses come in all different sizes. The biggest octopus found is the giant Pacific octopus. It weighs about 600 pounds and has arms that are 14 feet long. That's almost as long as a school bus!

Octopuses are interesting sea creatures. They can change color and shape, fit into tiny places, and use their intelligence. Octopuses are some of the greatest creatures of the sea.



Octopus: Smart Escape Artist

Margin Notes

Octopuses are fascinating creatures! The word "octopus" comes from two words in ancient Greek, which when combined mean "eight-footed." Since an octopus has eight tentacles, its name is definitely fitting. Because the word "octopus" comes from ancient Greek, the true plural form is "octopuses." "Octopi" has been used so much, though, it is also accepted as a plural form of the word "octopus."

Octopuses can change the color of their whole bodies in less than one second! This is one of their forms of defense. It is also one of the ways they hunt for prey. Not only do they change to match the color of their surroundings, but they also look like the shapes and textures of their surroundings. If you were walking on a tide pool and stepped on a squishy rock, it might be an octopus! The color and texture of their skin make them blend in really well with the rocks and coral on the ocean floor. Because they are so flexible, some octopuses can change shape and color to look like other animals! This helps to scare off enemies.

Octopuses can change their shape so well because they don't have bones in their bodies! You may have seen an octopus squeeze into an object or a space that seems impossibly small, like a jar. Unfortunately, this means they can't really be taken out of the water. They'd quickly lose their shape without water around them. The few times they do leave the water are usually to move quickly between tide pools for food or to hide from predators.

Octopuses are very smart, even though their brains are not very big. The brain of an octopus does not do all the thinking, though. About two-thirds of an octopus's brain cells are located on its tentacles! Because of this, an octopus can do several things at one time. It is also why a detached octopus arm can still react to pain.

Sometimes, their intelligence is what helps them hide from predators. Did you know that octopuses are smart enough to use tools? This may seem like an insignificant thing, but there are few other animals that are smart enough to use tools. Sometimes, an octopus will find two shells and pull them together to hide inside. It mainly does this to hide from predators. The shells are so hard that they protect the octopus. Octopuses have shown that they can solve problems. For example, they can open a bottle to get the food inside.

Octopuses also vary greatly in size. Usually, the largest octopuses only get to be about 33 pounds with arms 14 feet long. That's still over twice as tall as the average person! However, larger octopuses have been discovered. The largest one found is the giant Pacific octopus. It weighs about 600 pounds and has tentacles that are 30 feet long! That's almost as long as a school bus!

Octopuses are amazing! With their ability to change color, their knack for fitting into tiny places, and their intelligence, octopuses are some of the greatest creatures of the sea.



Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

CLOSE READING STEPS

The following steps are a **suggested sequence** in which you could approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of the passage, requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each passage should take one week to complete.



1st Reading: Student reads the passage. As they read, they use their annotation symbols to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they agree with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**. This task also includes some basic recall questions.



2nd Reading: Teacher (or partner) rereads the passage a second time while students follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to demonstrate their understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage, leading to a deeper comprehension of the text.



3rd Reading: Students reread the passage then responds in writing, citing text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper**. This page of questions requires students to cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 4: Reread and Respond**. These final tasks use the text evidence to write a supported summary.

Annotating Marks

As you read the passage, make the following marks on the text:



Circle powerful words or phrases.



Underline words or phrases you do not understand.



Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.



Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.



Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.



Write your important thoughts in the margins.

Wow! The character showed a lot of courage here...

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The first part of this packet includes 5 reading passages and one week's worth of reading activities for each passage. The Close Reading passages included in this packet are each provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may more easily differentiate your instruction. The informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All the question sheets are the same. This makes it easy for you to provide reading passages on each student's level, but use the same question and activity sheets for the entire class!

NOTE:

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Each passage with its activities is designed for a 5-day time frame, following this schedule:

Day	Title of Activity	Purpose
1	Task 1: Read and Annotate	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.
2	Task 2: Vocabulary	Read passage for the second time. Students choose vocabulary words that are unknown to them and complete the vocabulary activity using those words.
3	Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.
4	Task 4: Reread and Respond	Students use the graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
5	Task 5: Summarize	Using the completed graphic organizer from Day 4, students write a summary supporting details for the passage.

The reading levels for each differentiated passage are provided in this chart:

Passage Title	Symbol	Lexile Level
Mozart – Musical Genius	■	720
	▲	940
The History of Little League	■	780
	▲	1,000
The Sweet Story of Honey	■	740
	▲	950
George Washington Carver	■	800
	▲	1,030
The United States Constitution	■	750
	▲	930

5 Days of Close Reading Activities for GREATER Reading Comprehension

Task 1 - Read & Annotate

Name: _____ Day: _____

As you read through *Octopus: Smart Escape Artist* for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

First Reading Questions:

1. What is this passage mostly about?
2. What does the word "octopus" actually mean?
3. Why can octopuses change their shape so easily?
4. Describe the size of the giant Pacific octopus.
5. Where are about two-thirds of the octopus' brain cells found?

Task 2 - VOCABULARY

Name: _____ Day: _____

Second time. Find four words which are vocabulary diagram below.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

Name: _____ Day: _____

Third time. Find four words which are vocabulary diagram below.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

Task 4 - Reread & Respond

Name: _____ Day: _____

Fourth time. Find four words which are vocabulary diagram below.

DEFINITION	SYNONYM
WORD	
EXAMPLE SENTENCE	

Task 5 - Summarize

Name: _____ Date: _____

Summary of the passage. The main idea then use the four details to write four paragraphs by restating the main idea.

S: SMART ESCAPE ARTIST

Detail 2

Detail 4

NO PREP!
Print and Go!

NO PREP!

Print and Go!

Answer Keys Provided

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deep

OCTOPUS: SMART ESCAPE ARTIST ANSWER KEY

Text Evidence Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
Octopuses are animals with interesting characteristics which help them survive in the ocean.
2. List three details that support the main idea:
 - a) Octopuses have no bones, so they can easily change shape.
 - b) They can blend in easily with the colors and textures of their surroundings.
 - c) Octopuses are very smart.
3. Cite 3 pieces of evidence from the text that show that octopuses can easily change their color and shape.
 - a) Octopuses can change the color of their whole body in less than one second.
 - b) They match the color of their surroundings.
 - c) They can fit into an object or space.
4. Give 2 physical characteristics of octopuses.
 - a) They have no bones.
 - b) Octopuses have eight arms.
5. Cite 2 pieces of evidence that show octopuses are smart.
 - a) An octopus can do several things at one time.
 - b) They can open a bottle to get the food inside.

Task 1 - Read & Annotate

OCTOPUS: SMART ESCAPE ARTIST ANSWER KEY

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

First Reading Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is this passage mostly about?
This passage is mostly about octopuses, their characteristics, and how they survive in the ocean.
2. What does the word "tentacles" actually mean?
Tentacles are the "eight-footed."
3. How do octopuses change their shape so easily?
Octopuses have no bones in their body, so they are easily able to change shape.
4. Describe the size of the giant Pacific octopus.
The giant Pacific octopus weighs about 600 pounds and has tentacles that are 30 feet long.
5. Where are about two-thirds of the octopus' brain cells found?
Two-thirds of the octopus' brain cells are found on its arms.