

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



1. How long can some individual giant squids reach?

47 feet

34 feet

43 feet

74 feet

2. How heavy can some individual giant squids weigh?

about 100 pounds

about 1,100 pounds

about 1,500 pounds

about 2,000 pounds

3. How does the giant squid use its longer tentacles?

to communicate with other squid

to swim through the water

to make itself look larger

to catch sea life to eat

4. In which regions of the world is the giant squid typically found?

in most temperate and tropical regions

only in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean

near the North Pole

near the South Pole

5. What does the lecturer say the giant squid feeds on?

many different kinds of sea life

seaweed and jellyfish

mainly shellfish

plankton

6. The giant squid is probably not a danger to humans.

TRUE

FALSE

TRUE - but reports of attacks are increasing.

The lecturer doesn't say.

Discuss these questions with a friend or classmate.

1. What information from the lecture did you find the most interesting? Why?
2. Do you think a giant squid might eat a human? Why? / Why not?
3. What other large animals live in the oceans?
4. Why are many people fascinated by giant animals?
5. Do you think a squid would make a good pet? Why? / Why not?
6. Might there be other giant animals in the oceans we don't yet know about?

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Audio Script

The giant squid, *Architeuthis dux*, is a species of deep-sea cephalopod that is known for its massive size and elusive nature. It is thought to be the largest invertebrate on Earth, with some individuals reaching lengths of up to 43 feet and weighing over 1,100 pounds.

The giant squid has a long, slender body and a pair of elongated tentacles, that are lined with suckers. It uses these tentacles to catch prey, and they can be extended to over twice the length of its body. The giant squid has a unique anatomy that allows it to swim at high speeds through the deep ocean. It has a pair of triangular fins on its mantle that it uses to propel itself through the water, as well as a pair of large, paddle-like arms that it uses for steering.

Despite its enormous size, the giant squid has remained largely mysterious to scientists. It is a deep-sea dweller that is rarely seen by humans, and most of what we know about the species comes from specimens that have washed ashore or been caught in fishing nets. It is thought to inhabit the depths of the ocean in most temperate and tropical regions, although it has been sighted as far north as the Arctic Circle.

The giant squid is an opportunistic predator that feeds on a variety of prey, including, fish, crustaceans, and other cephalopods. It is known to use its tentacles to catch prey and bring it to its beak-like mouth, where it is then torn into smaller pieces using a radula (a toothed, flexible ribbon-like organ).

Despite its formidable appearance, the giant squid is not thought to pose a threat to humans. It is generally found at depths of over 3,000 feet and is not known to approach divers or boats. However, the giant squid is considered a delicacy in some parts of the world and is sometimes caught by commercial fishing operations.

Overall, the giant squid is a fascinating and mysterious species that continues to captivate the imagination of scientists, and the general public, alike. Its unique anatomy and elusive nature make it a subject of ongoing research and study.

ANSWER KEY

1. 43 feet
2. about 1,100 pounds
3. to catch sea life to eat
4. in most temperate and tropical regions
5. many different kinds of sea life
6. TRUE