

Evidence Detective

Explain what the text says and support what you infer.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1 "Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about the octopus changing its appearance or hiding. In each Part 2 answer, refer to a paragraph and quote or paraphrase a supporting detail. An explicit idea is stated in the text; an inference combines clues with reasoning.

The Mimic Octopus

- ① The mimic octopus lives in warm, shallow waters near Indonesia. Like other octopuses, it has eight arms, a soft body, and tiny pigment-filled cells in its skin. Small muscles expand or shrink these cells, quickly changing the color and pattern of its skin. It also uses muscles to bend its body into different shapes. These changes can help it blend into the sandy seafloor.
- ② When danger comes near, the mimic octopus may move its arms and body to look like another sea animal. Scientists have watched it flatten its body and swim like a flatfish. It can also tuck six arms into a burrow and wave its other two arms, making them look like the bands of a sea snake. Predators may avoid animals that appear dangerous or hard to catch.
- ③ The mimic octopus hunts small fish, crabs, and worms. It often searches along the bottom, where it can hide among sand and rocks. Its flexible body lets it squeeze into narrow spaces while looking for food. Unlike an animal protected by a shell or hard bones, an octopus has a soft body. Changing its look and slipping into tight hiding places are useful ways for it to stay safe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** What does paragraph 1 explicitly explain about how the octopus changes its skin color? Cite a detail.

- 2** Infer why a predator might mistake this octopus for a sea snake. Cite a detail and explain your reasoning.

- 3** Name two animals the octopus hunts, using paragraph 3. Is your answer explicit or inferred? Explain.

- 4** Infer why a soft-bodied octopus benefits from having several ways to hide. Use two details from the text.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a different reasonable inference about this octopus. Give two details with paragraph numbers, then explain how the details support your inference. Evidence supports an inference; it does not prove every guess.

Write your response

Follow the task above. Use the lines below for your complete response.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about the octopus changing its appearance or hiding. In each Part 2 answer, refer to a paragraph and quote or paraphrase a supporting detail. An explicit idea is stated in the text; an inference combines clues with reasoning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does paragraph 1 explicitly explain about how the octopus changes its skin color? Cite a detail.	Small muscles expand or shrink pigment-filled skin cells. Paragraph 1 states that this quickly changes the color and pattern of the skin.
2	Infer why a predator might mistake this octopus for a sea snake. Cite a detail and explain your reasoning.	Paragraph 2 describes the octopus hiding six arms and waving two banded arms. Their resemblance to a sea snake could make a predator mistake the octopus for that animal; the passage does not report the predator's thoughts.
3	Name two animals the octopus hunts, using paragraph 3. Is your answer explicit or inferred? Explain.	Any two of small fish, crabs and worms. This is explicit because paragraph 3 directly lists those foods.
4	Infer why a soft-bodied octopus benefits from having several ways to hide. Use two details from the text.	Paragraph 3 says it has a soft body without a shell or hard bones. Paragraph 1 describes blending into sand, and paragraph 3 describes squeezing into tight spaces. Different hiding methods could help it avoid danger in different situations. Accept a supported explanation, not a claim that hiding always succeeds.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I infer that changing body shape can help the octopus both find food and avoid danger. Paragraph 2 says it changes its shape to look like other animals when danger comes near. Paragraph 3 says its flexible body lets it enter narrow spaces while looking for food. Together, these details suggest that flexibility has more than one useful role.

Judge whether answers use relevant details and connect them to the explanation or inference. For Question 3, check the explicit/inferred choice and its explanation. Accept accurate quotations or paraphrases and reasonable inferences, not unsupported certainty about predators' thoughts. The open-task model is illustrative; accept other distinct inferences supported by two details. Scientific background checked against Smithsonian Ocean, Cephalopods: Octopus, Squid, Cuttlefish, and Nautilus.