



# GLOOMY OCTOPUS

*OCTOPUS TETRICUS*

## DID YOU KNOW?

More than 95% of animals don't have a backbone!

## WHERE AT AQWA?

Search our Perth Coast exhibit area to discover our octopus' secret lair.

## SIZE: <200CM (ARM SPAN)

**DIET: CRABS,  
SHELLFISH,  
CRAYFISH, FISH**

**MAIN PREDATOR:  
SHARKS, FISH, SEA  
LIONS**

**HABITAT: SHALLOW  
COASTAL WATER,  
ROCKY REEFS**

**FOUND:  
SUBTROPICAL  
OCEAN: AUSTRALIA  
AND NEW ZEALAND**

## TOTALLY UNIQUE

An octopus has 8 arms, 9 brains, 3 hearts and tongue lined with teeth! But the unique features don't stop there: their main brain is shaped like a donut, they have blue blood, a beak-like mouth, electric skin plus thousands of suckers. These suckers can be moved separately and are used for tasting as well as touching.

The gloomy octopus has white eyes, is nocturnal and very territorial spending its day in a lair of rocks and rubble.

## SUPER SUCTION AND STRENGTH!

Made almost entirely of muscle an octopus' arms are incredibly strong and flexible. They can lift things at least 20 times their own weight and have a super tight grip thanks to the tiny grooves around their suckers, plus a perfect mix of water and slime.

## ELECTRIC SKIN

The gloomy octopus can change the colour and texture of its skin faster than we can blink our eyes. It constantly alters and updates its camouflage and has 3 separate layers of colour changing cells to help it do this. Its main disguises are rocks and seaweed - a look it perfects by forming round bumps or spikes with its skin, even above its eyes!

## MASTERS OF ESCAPE

With no bones in their body, octopuses have an infinite range of motion and can easily squeeze through tiny crevices to make a stealthy getaway. When a quick escape is needed, octopuses use jet-propulsion. They may also shoot out an ink cloud, which reduces a predator's ability to see and smell them. The ink cloud can even take the form of an octopus, causing the predator to mistake the ink as its target!