

3. The size of the nervous system makes it relatively easy to examine, while its complexity allows scientists to compare it to other highly developed systems, such as those found in mammals.

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1. Answers will vary. Scientists discount the stories as myths because real octopi do not grow large enough or strong enough to threaten ships.
2. The octopus is larger than many predators, but size also makes it more visible and desirable to predators.



1. Sailors long ago told stories of ships attacked by giant octopuses. Do you think those stories were realistic? Explain your reasoning.
2. A large octopus can have an arm span of 8 m. What are the advantages of being so large? What are the disadvantages?
3. All cephalopods, including this octopus, have complex nervous systems. Why might scientists prefer to study such a system?