## Soft and squishy sea creatures

Standard

What a massive creature!

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B OBBY read on the news that a giant octopus was washed up on a New Zealand (新西蘭) beach. This colossal cephalopod's body is more than two metres long and one of its tentacles is over five metres long. Bobby asked Mr Octo if it was one of his brothers, but Mr Octo said it was not an octopus but a squid. Bobby has another question – what is the difference between a squid, octopus and cuttlefish? If you want to know too, join Mr Octo's lesson on the cephalopod species.

### **Editor's Note**

That is one giant squid on the cover! I have an idea for a movie – giant squids attacking humans and eating them! Could it happen? Learn more about squids and octopi on G02. Have you ever donated something before? Many people have donated blood, but would you ever give up a kidney? That is what a kind US citizen did recently. Read more on G08.

• http://www.student.thestandard.com.hk

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# **Cover Feature**

Monday 8 June 2015

Goodies

**G02** 

These fins help

me to swim really fast! • Photos: AFP, AP, Reuters, Xinhua



#### Meet the family

Octopus, squid and cuttlefish are all from the same family but they look different and have different abilities. All these members are called cephalopods and they have **prominent** heads and a set of tentacles. They are also named inkfish as they will **squirt** ink when attacked.

#### Octopus

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The big difference is the octopus has a roundish head and eight equal-length tentacles. Most octopi spend a lot of time alone in a den on the sea floor. They come out at night to hunt and usually eat bottom-dwelling **crustaceans**, such as crabs and clams.

Squid

The squid has an **elongated** head with two fins and a slender torpedo-shaped body. Squids have a stiff inner body shell called a pen. Moreover, squids have 10 tentacles, two of which are very long and used to catch food. They live in the open sea and usually eat fish and shrimp. 'Octo' means eight in Latin so I am named after my eight tentacles!

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l can camouflage on the ocean floor when there are predators around.

#### **Cuttlefish**

Cuttlefish and squid look quite similar. Cuttlefish also have an internal bone called a cuttlebone and 10 tentacles. The difference is that the cuttlefish has a larger, flattened oval head, and eight of its tentacles are quite **stubby**. Its two long tentacles are used to catch crabs and molluscs. Cuttlefish also have better eyesight than the other two sea creatures as they have large, w-shaped eyes and two **pupils** in each eye.

### Game

Which of these creatures are octopi, squids and cuttlefish?













prominent (adj) 突出的 squirt (v) 噴 crustacean (n) 甲殼類動物 elongated (adj) 瘦長的

stubby (adj) 短而粗的 pupil (n) 瞳孔

