

Cephalopods

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About Cephalopods:

- It is the most morphologically and behaviorally complex class in **phylum Mollusca**.
- **Characteristics**
 - They are characterized by a **completely merged head and foot**, with a ring of arms and/or tentacles surrounding the head. The arms, tentacles, and funnel are all derivatives of the foot.
 - Locomotion in cephalopods is accomplished mainly by jet propulsion.
 - **Diet:** All cephalopods **are carnivorous**. Many are **skilled hunters**, but **some feed passively on floating debris**.
 - They possess **well-developed nervous systems** and complex sensory organs.
 - They **contain pigment-rich cells** in the epidermis surrounded by cells containing contractile fibers.
 - One of the highly complex behaviours that many cephalopods show is **visual camouflage**. They can open and close tiny sacs just below their skin that contain coloured pigments and reflectors, revealing specific colours.
 - The **Australian giant cuttlefish**, *Sepia apama*, uses its chromatophores to communicate, creating patterns that attract mates and warn off aggressors.

- This ability can also come in handy for hunting; many cephalopods **are ambush predators** that blend into the background or even lure their prey.
 - It includes the **coleoids – cuttlefish, octopus and squid** – as well as the chambered nautilus.
 - Some Cephalopods live alone in the nearly **featureless darkness of the deep ocean**; others live socially on **active, sunny coral reefs**.
 - Some cephalopods may be capable of more complicated forms of learning, such as **reversal learning** – learning to flexibly adjust behaviour when different stimuli signal reward.
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Q1: What are Corals?

These are invertebrate animals belonging to a large group of colourful and fascinating animals called Cnidaria. Other animals in this group that you may have seen in rock pools or on the beach include jelly fish and sea anemones.

News: TH

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