

# Giant Squid

By Sheri Skelton

<sup>1</sup> Can you imagine having eyes as big as basketballs? The giant squid has eyes that big. Each of its eyes measures about 12 inches in diameter. Giant squid have the largest eyes in the animal kingdom. The only other animal with eyes that big is the colossal squid. Giant squid need big eyes. The big eyes help the squid to find food deep in the ocean where it is very dark.



<sup>2</sup> The giant squid rivals the colossal squid for the title of the biggest invertebrate on Earth. The largest one ever found was almost 60 feet long and weighed almost one ton. The giant squid has a body called a mantle. The giant squid has small fins at the end of its mantle. The giant squid uses the fins to maneuver itself through the water. The giant squid propels itself through the water by pushing water out of its mantle through a siphon. The giant squid breathes through pairs of gills inside the mantle. The giant squid has eight arms and two longer tentacles. The giant squid uses the tentacles to bring food to its mouth.

<sup>3</sup> Almost everything we know about giant squid has been learned from studying the carcasses of giant squid. The bodies of the giant squid either wash up on beaches or are captured in nets by fishermen. In 2004 researchers in Japan took the first pictures of a live giant squid living in the ocean. Two years later the same researchers made a film of a live giant squid.

<sup>4</sup> Over the years many stories have been told about the giant squid. It is sometimes called the last great monster of the ocean. There is still much to learn about the giant squid. Scientists continue to study the carcasses of the giant squid, which have been found in all the oceans of the world.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Science Pd: \_\_\_\_\_

## Giant Squid

<p>1. What is the body of the giant squid called?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>2. What does the giant squid use to maneuver itself through water?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Gills</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Tail</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Fins</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Tentacles</p>
<p>3. How have scientists learned most of what they know about the giant squid?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A From cameras placed underwater</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B From underwater diving expeditions that observe giant squid</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C From carcasses of giant squid that have washed up on beaches or been captured in fishing nets</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D From giant squid raised in captivity</p>	<p>4. Which feature of the giant squid is the largest in the animal kingdom?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Its nose</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Its eyes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Its tail</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Its mouth</p>
<p>5. How does the giant squid breathe?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Through gills</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Through a blowhole</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Through its fins</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Through nostrils</p>	