## Octopus Adventures

id you know that octopuses are some of the smartest creatures of the sea? Scientists in Indonesia were astounded to see them pick up coconut shells larger than their bodies, carry them across the sea floor, and hide inside! This surprising behavior is "tool use"—a sign of animal intelligence.

Octopuses have large brains compared to their body weight. They use their complex brains to cleverly protect themselves from predators. They carefully

choose their dens and move rocks to block the entrances. They also change color and texture to blend in with their surroundings. Some sneak around disguised as rocks.

In scientific research, octopuses have learned to recognize shapes, open jars, and solve mazes. They cause trouble in labs by escaping from their tanks. Some scientists believe octopuses are curious and like to play. But some are poisonous to humans. The next time you visit the beach, keep your eyes open for the incredible octopus.

