

The Octopus's Garden The Secret World Under The Sea

By Dr Mark Norman

About the book and the accompanying DVD

This book, about the wonders of the marine world, will appeal to the innate curiosity of children.

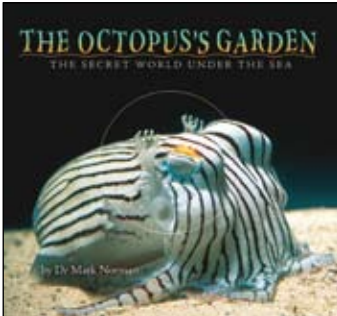
The material in the book is beautifully presented – the information is well organized and succinct, making it easily accessible to children, and accompanied by stunning coloured photographs.

The DVD is 10 minutes long and students will be spellbound. There is no commentary to intrude on the viewing experience, only the eerie sounds of the world beneath the waves.

The book and DVD compliment each other perfectly — the different creatures appear on camera doing the truly remarkable things that they do, in the order they appear in the book.

Learning activities:

- Excursions to an appropriate museum or aquarium would complement the study of this book.
- Arrange to have class chat to the author online, asking prepared questions.
- Invite a chef or parent to come along and demonstrate how to prepare and cook calamari (Italian for squid).



- Give the art teacher notice about the class's art project.
- Inform the librarian about the kinds of books students may wish to refer to.

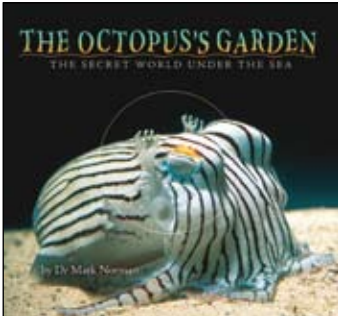
Literacy

Book format

- What is the book's title?
- Who is the author?
- Where can you find brief details about the author? (last page)
- Look at the contents page – how many different creatures are featured in the book? (10)
- How does the author highlight additional information? (additional photos in circular boxes with accompanying information on white labels)
- Where are the fact files? (pp. 24-26)
- What is attached to the front cover (a DVD)

Visual literacy and the DVD

- Each student to think of one adjective to describe the DVD. Build up a list.
- Have class put any synonyms together
- Are there any antonyms? (if none, get class to provide for one or two words on the list)
- Which underwater image made the biggest impression? Why?



Story writing — a fantasy

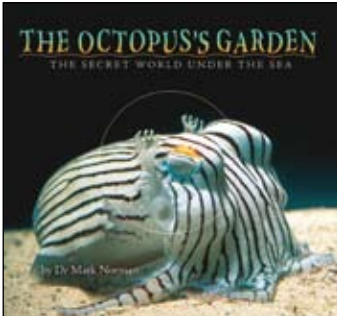
- Imagine...you dive under the waves and suddenly find yourself in an Octopus's Garden where you come face to face with one of the wizards of the sea. What happens next? (You may decorate your story with illustrations)

Science

Quiz

After students have read the book, answer the following questions using the book for reference. Allow 30 minutes.

1. Wears bed clothes all day long.
(Striped Pyjama Squid p. 14)
2. Shows off when looking in a mirror.
(Broadclub Cuttlefish p. 19)
3. Beautiful but deadly.
(Blue-ringed Octopus p. 6)
4. Likes to hitch-hike.
(Argonaut p. 23)
5. Is really an octopus but doesn't look like one.
(Argonaut p. 22)
6. Can often be found in bird cages
(cuttlebones p. 25)
7. Sometimes looks a bit like a zebra
(Broadclub Cuttlefish p. 25)
8. Sometimes pretends to be a snake
(Mimic Octopus p. 8)
9. Can turn purple with rage
(Coconut Octopus p. 24)



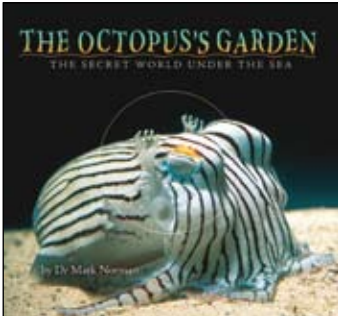
10. As small as Tom Thumb
(Sand Octopus p. 24)
11. Eats the dead in the dead of night
(Chambered Nautilus p. 26)
12. Can run on two “legs”
(Day Octopus p. 25)
13. Very competitive creatures
(Giant Cuttlefish p.16)
14. Has ink but can't write
(Argonaut p. 22)
15. Tastes terrible
(Striped Pyjama Squid p. 25)

Research assignment

1. Compare the physical features of the octopus, squid, cuttlefish, chambered nautilus and the argonaut (the argonaut is an octopus but can be treated separately for this exercise) Do they share any features? How are they different from each other?

and / or

2. Choose one of the ten creatures in the book for further study. Include habitat; physical characteristics; any special or unusual characteristics or behaviour such as camouflage; diet; reproduction; predators. Add any other information you find interesting.



In both 1 & 2 students must go beyond the book for additional information. Use photos and drawings where appropriate. The method of presentation is up to the student, for example, material can be presented on a project-sized sheet of cardboard, or a power point presentation may be preferred.

Integrated Studies

Geography

Mapping exercise:

Download or trace an outline of a map of the world.

- Label the continents
- Add the Equator and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
 - Label Australia, New Guinea, Japan and Fiji.
- Label the oceans

Indicate on the map the distribution of the following:

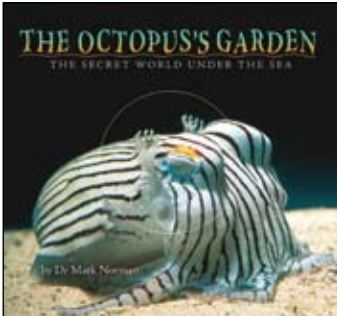
(Use colour coding or an identification system of your own choosing).

- Coconut Octopus
- Sand Octopus
- Striped Pyjama Squid
- Broadclub Cuttlefish

The marine environment

Group discussion:

- Make a list of the ways human activity threatens the marine environment.



Think of solutions to these problems.

Scuba diving

Working in pairs.

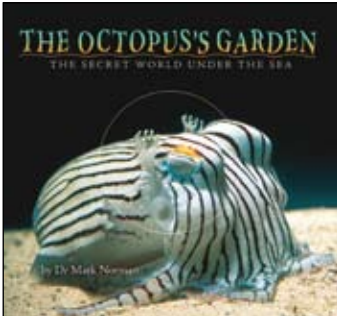
- What does SCUBA stand for? (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus)
- What equipment does a recreational scuba diver need? Draw a sketch or find a photo of a fully kitted-out scuba diver and label the main items of equipment.
- What perils are there to beware of when scuba diving?

Art

Group activity: Have class decorate the classroom as an Octopus's Garden. Let students decide how they are going to do it and then make the decorations in Art class.

Music

There will never be a more appropriate occasion than this to teach the class the song *Octopus's Garden!* This children's song by The Beatles from their 1969 *Abbey Road* album, is available for streaming or downloading on the Internet.



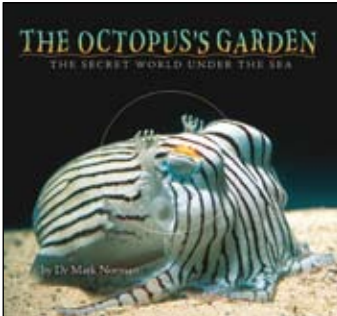
I'd like to be, under the sea
In an octopus's garden in the shade
He'd let us in, knows where we've been
in his octopus's garden, in the shade.

I'd ask my friends to come and see
An octopus's garden with me
I'd like to be under the sea
In an octopus's garden in the shade.

We would be warm, below the storm
In our little hideaway beneath the waves
Resting our head, on the sea bed
In an octopus's garden near a cave

We would sing and dance around
because we know we can't be found
I'd like to be under the sea
In an octopus's garden in the shade

We would shout and swim about
The coral that lies beneath the waves
(Lies beneath the ocean waves)
Oh what joy for every girl and boy
Knowing they're happy and they're safe
(Happy and they're safe)



We would be so happy you and me
No one there to tell us what to do
I'd like to be under the sea
In an octopus's garden with you
In an octopus's garden with you
In an octopus's garden with you.



About the author

Dr Mark Norman, Senior Curator of Molluscs at Museum Victoria, is a person of many talents — marine biologist, underwater cinematographer, teacher, award-winning author and documentary maker — he has collaborated on documentaries made by National Geographic and the Discovery Channel. An expert on cephalopods — octopuses, squids, cuttlefish and nautilus, he enjoys getting up close and personal with his subject matter.