



Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

JUDY D. WHITE, Ed.D. County Superintendent of Schools

Tuesday, April 28

2:00pm

Nature: “Octopus: Making Contact”- 4th – 8th grade

Follow an Alaskan professor as he raises and studies a pet octopus in his home, making remarkable discoveries about its extraordinary intelligence, personality and skills. Octopuses are able to recognize faces and interact with other individuals.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- Prove at least two quotes of evidence that support the main claims or reasons.
- Choose 2-3 unfamiliar words for the program and define them.
- How does an octopus provide the inspiration for extraterrestrials in science fiction movies?
- How does this episode explain that cephalopods are intelligent and have their own personalities?
- As Alaskan professor raises a pet Octopus in his home, how does he explain that he can recognize faces?
- Explain how this octopus interacts with others? Why is this “odd” behavior for an asocial animal?
- How does “Heidi” play with Laurel, the professor’s daughter?
- What are some of Heidi’s abilities?
- Why is Professor Scheel more interested in our similarities with the octopus rather than our differences?

Question Box 2

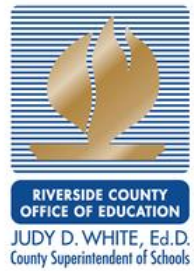
- How do you feel about this TV show? Do you think that people should be allowed to have exotic pets in their home?
- What parts of this episode did you like? Dislike? Why?
- How do you think Heidi felt about being raised in this environment?
- What’s the one thing you particularly want people to notice when they watch this TV program?
- What unanswered questions do you still have?

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Box 3 (Tasks)

- Compare and contrast the Octopus to a squid or nautilus
- Make a diagram of an Octopus and label its parts

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Research a specific Octopus and write a poem or Haiku about it.
- Make a presentation that shows several Octopuses, include information about its common name, scientific name, its habitat, as well as a fun fact about the animal.
- “Octopuses followed a different evolutionary path, making them different from all other intelligent animals on this planet,” what does Professor Scheel mean by this statement? Research to see if you can back his statement up with evidence. Record your findings in a report.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Blue Ringed Octopus is one of the most poisonous animals on earth. Discuss this organism and the role that it plays in its environment
- What do you know about Marine Biology? If this is something that interests you, what could you do to learn more about this career and what marine biologists actually do?