

No Bones About It - Octopus Science Experiment

What would it feel like to have no bones like an octopus? How would you move? What are bones anyways? Where are your bones?

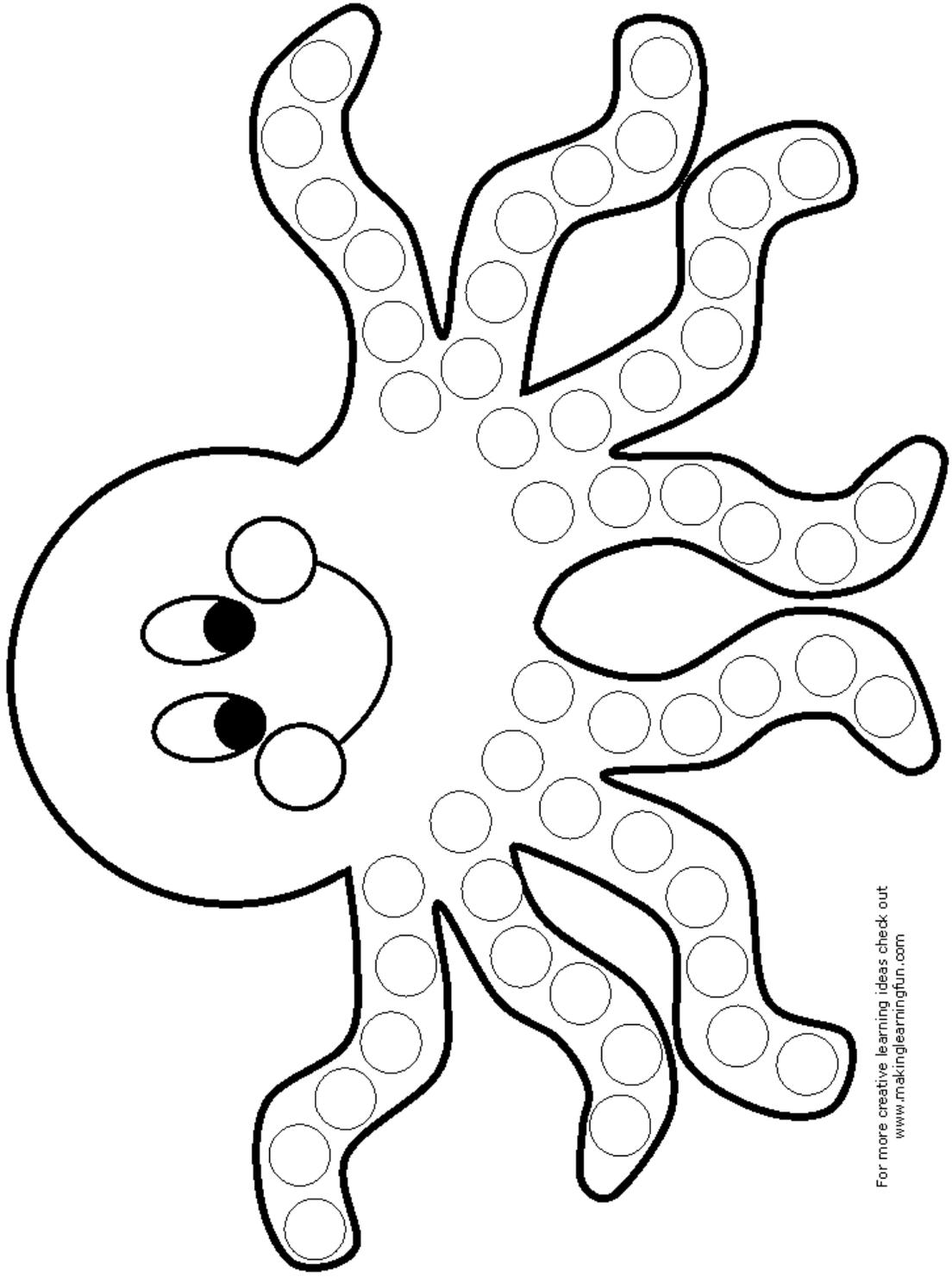
Prep:

1. Draw an octopus on a gallon-sized zip-lock baggie with a permanent marker.
2. Cut a 1 inch diameter hole in a paperbowl (aka the octopus cave).

With students:

In the discussion about how octopuses move without bones, we learned that they quickly take water into their bodies and spray it out to “swim”

1. Add some water to the octopus bag.
2. Octopuses come have colorful skin--add a few drops of food color. (if baggie is placed over white paper the color it looks more colorful).
3. You might wish to tape the bag shut.
4. Now the octopus wants to go into his cave--have them fit the octopus through the hole.
5. Could the octopus have fit in his cave if he had bones? Try taping some sticks to the bag and see how the octopus fits through the cave then.



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