

Awesome Octopi

While I'm on the subject of our visit to the zoo... well, in some ways it wasn't our best visit, that's probably why it took me almost a week to get motivated to write about it. A few of us were still recovering from the flu, while others in the family were coming down with it, so the lot of us that day were quite crabby! But we did see some amazing animal action, including the often inactive octopus – he was moving all around his tank, which prompted many questions from my kids, my husband, and myself. I did a bunch of research when I got home, and I learned what I already suspected – octopi are awesome! Here are some of the coolest facts:

- The octopus has a short lifespan; varying among species from 6 months to 5 years for the larger species held in captivity.
- Octopi are invertebrates, meaning they have no hard skeleton, and they are very intelligent creatures – considered the most intelligent of all the invertebrates. They have been known to manipulate man-made objects, like opening jars or even solving puzzles and mazes. Check out the following video – an octopus navigates a water maze by getting **out** of the water and going **over** the maze! (The major action starts about 2 minutes into the video.)

- Because of the fact that octopi don't have skeletons, they can squeeze their bodies (which is actually that bulbous looking mass most people mistake for a head – and it contains **three** hearts!) through extremely small openings.