

## Giant Squid Reading Comprehension

Name \_\_\_\_\_

With a body as long as a school bus and eyes the size of beach balls, the giant squid really does live up to its name. The average squid grows to about two feet long; however, the largest giant squid on record is 59 feet long!

Legends about the giant squid date back to the times of Greek mythology. Tales of the Kraken described a gigantic sea creature devouring ships in the ocean, and was even a part of the plot in the famous novel, *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*. Of course, the legend of the Kraken turned out to be an exaggerated version of the giant squid.

The first reported sighting of the giant squid occurred in the 14th century, but actual proof of its existence came much later. In 2004, the first giant squid was caught on camera in Japan. Scientists were able to acquire DNA from the creature enabling them to gather information on the mysterious sea creature. In 2006, Japanese scientists found and recorded video of a live 24-foot giant squid!

Today, more information is known about these enigmatic creatures, due to studies of dead carcasses as well as several live squids. For example, scientists have learned that giant squids have the largest eyes of any organism on earth. The massive eyes help them see and find objects in the deep, lightless parts of the ocean where they live. Researchers believe their diet includes fish, shrimp, and even other squids! Sperm whales are thought to be their main predators.

1. **What paragraph describes how giant squids were characterized in the past?**
  - a. Introductory
  - b. Second
  - c. Third
  - d. Concluding

**2. The giant squid...**

- a. is rarely seen.
- b. probably lives near the surface of the water.
- c. is found in lakes and rivers.
- d. is always very large.

**3. Why does the giant squid have massive eyes?**

- a. To ward off predators
- b. To see when they are deep underwater
- c. To escape from sperm whales
- d. To avoid being recorded by video cameras

**4. Which of the following is TRUE?**

- a. The first picture of the giant squid was taken in 2006.
- b. DNA was taken from the giant squid in 2006.
- c. The first giant squid was recorded on video in 2006.
- d. The first giant squid was recorded on video in 2004.

**5. What does the author seem surprised by?**

- a. That one giant squid measured up to 59 feet in length
- b. That sperm whales prey upon giant squids
- c. That giant squids eat other squids
- d. That giant squids swim deep underwater

**6. What information is omitted?**

- a. Was the legend of the Kraken true?
- b. What organism has the largest eyes?
- c. What is the size of an average giant squid?
- d. Who was the author of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*?

**7. Which of the following completes the analogy?**

**Giant squid : sperm whale ::**

- a. tiger : lion
- b. dolphin : human
- c. butterfly : caterpillar
- d. mouse : owl