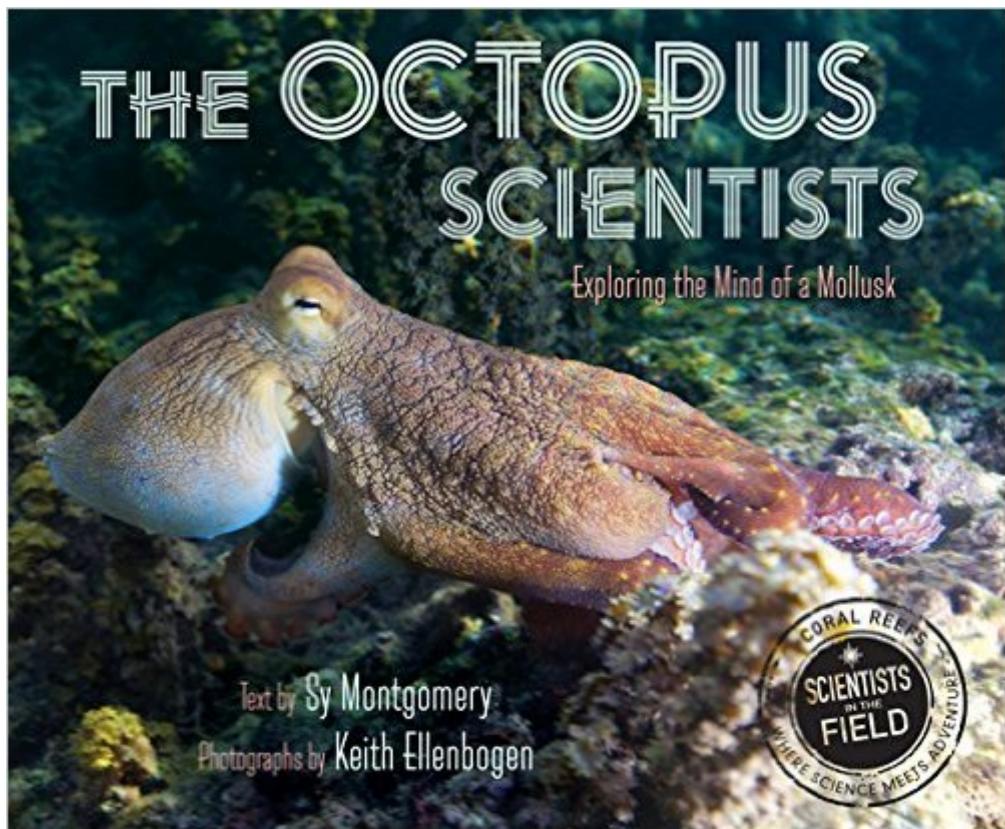


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# The Octopus Scientists (Scientists In The Field Series)



## Synopsis

With three hearts and blue blood, its gelatinous body unconstrained by jointed limbs or gravity, the octopus seems to be an alien, an inhabitant of another world. It's baggy, boneless body sprouts eight arms covered with thousands of suckers—suckers that can taste as well as feel. The octopus also has the powers of a superhero: it can shape-shift, change color, squirt ink, pour itself through the tiniest of openings, or jet away through the sea faster than a swimmer can follow.

But most intriguing of all, octopuses are classed as mollusks, like clams are remarkably intelligent with quirky personalities. This book, an inquiry into the mind of an intelligent invertebrate, is also a foray into our own unexplored planet. These thinking, feeling creatures can help readers experience and understand our world (and perhaps even life itself) in a new way.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1020 (What's this?)

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (May 26, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544232704

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Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 0.6 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #252,125 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #165 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #234 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology #503 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Marine Life

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

THE OCTOPUS SCIENTISTS: EXPLORING THE MIND OF A MOLLUSK by Sy Montgomery provides a fascinating look at the world of scientists studying octopus. Part of the Scientists in the Field collection, the author provides stunning photographs to go with the interesting and informative scientific narrative. The story follows a group of scientists at the CRIBE's field station as

they collect information about the elusive octopus. In addition to the engaging story of scientific investigation, the book also includes pages focusing on the scientists and fact sheets providing in-depth information on topics such as creature camouflage. Feature this book in a library display focusing on creatures of the coral reef. Be sure teachers are aware of this growing collection of high-quality science books. The entire Scientists in the Field collection is a great way to address STEM standards and encourage careers in the sciences. To learn more about the Scientists in the Field books, go to <http://www.sciencemeetsadventure.com>. To learn more about the author, go to <http://symontgomery.com>. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt on May 26, 2015.

**Summary:** Sy Montgomery travels to the island of Moorea, near Tahiti, to work with a group of scientists who are seeking to learn more about octopuses (in case you're wondering, this is the correct plural form of octopus. Octopod is also acceptable, but not octopi). Diving from numerous locations around the island, the team hunts for the elusive octopus which can change into more colors than a chameleon, and move its boneless body through tiny holes to hide. Not only are they looking to learn how this animal lives, but also the psychology of the octopus, which has been shown in recent years to be remarkably intelligent. Interspersed with the story of the expedition are two-page spreads that give more information about octopuses, the scientists, and their research facility. A brief bibliography and index are included at the end. **Grades 5-8.**  
**Pros:** Part of the excellent Scientists in the Field series ("Where science meets adventure"), this book continues that series' tradition of making the life of the scientist seem exciting and adventurous. Some days pass without a single octopus sighting, but this makes the days there are discoveries all the more rewarding. Readers will definitely want to make the acquaintance of an octopus when they finish this book.  
**Cons:** Okay, this is the third nonfiction book in the last month where I've felt the font is too small. Fortunately, I have an eye doctor appointment tomorrow.

This book has beautiful illustrations, and the story is fun to read as well. I loved learning all about octopuses. I am obsessed with octopuses. I bought this book for school and I am so happy I get to keep it forever.

Scientists in the Field is a series that I absolutely adore. I have yet to read one that I didn't thoroughly enjoy. I learn a lot and the photographs are fabulous. The Octopus Scientists is no different. The story of the four scientists along with the author and photographer's journey to a Pacific island to study octopuses and their personalities and feeding habits drew me in from the get

go (especially the photographs of the beautiful island). The author also includes several sidebars with extra information about the scientists as well as octopuses in general. I was fascinated to learn that what I've always thought of as the octopus 'head' is really more of a torso. The author's experiences meeting individual Giant Pacific octopuses at an aquarium showed clearly that octopuses really do have their own personalities. For budding scientists or young readers fascinated by the natural world will find this a compelling look at the realities and excitement of field work.

Sy Montgomery is the BEST nature writer around, and she is incredibly brave!

I gave this book five stars because I could easily get lost in it while I was reading and the book was very insightful. I would recommend this book to any one with a love for the ocean and learning.

Good book, beautifully done. Not the most compelling read.

Excellent well written book about the intelligent octopus.

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