



Classroom Activities - Grades 2/3

Rapid Transit

Blow up a balloon, then without tying off the end let it go. What happens? Why? Octopuses use a similar technique to escape from predators or move quickly after their prey. By drawing water into its body an octopus can inflate itself with water like you inflated the balloon with air. By contracting strong muscles in its body the octopus then forces the water out through a small funnel located under the head. The large amount of water escaping from a small opening causes the octopus to jet backwards like the balloon did when the air quickly escaped through its narrow neck.

Make an Octopus

What you will need:

- a balloon
- 8 strips of paper or cloth about 1 cm wide length and width can vary depending on the size of your balloon
- tape
- a felt pen

Blow the balloon up until it is the size you want the body of your octopus to be and tie it off. Tape the 8 strips of cloth or paper around the balloon near the neck and draw eyes on your octopus. On a large piece of paper draw an underwater scene and put your octopus in front of it.