

## The Giant Squid

The giant squid is the largest of all squid and the largest invertebrate on the planet. Once thought to be a myth, the existence of giant squid has recently been proven.

The giant squid can grow to a tremendous size, measuring between 10 and 13 metres (33-43 feet). Although some have claimed to have sighted larger giant squid, these claims have not been proven.

A giant squid has a torso, eight arms and two longer tentacles which are lined with hundreds of suction cups. These suction cups are lined with sharp rings that attach the squid to its prey. Giant squid also have hard beaks which may be used when hunting. A giant squid's eyes can be as big as a basketball. Their large eyes help them to see in the dark waters of the ocean.

The only predator to giant squid is the sperm whale. Remains of giant squid have been found inside the stomachs of sperm whales, particularly the hard beaks of the giant squid which do not get broken down. Sucker marks from the giant squid are often found on sperm whales, leading scientists to believe that vicious battles take place between the two organisms.

Although they are one of the larger creatures in the ocean, giant squid are difficult to find.