

Vampire Squid

Learn some Halloween facts about vampire squid!

The scientific name is *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*, which means “vampire squid from hell.” How do you think it got this name?

Vampire squid are not vampires, and they aren't squid either! They are in the same Class as squid and octopuses, but they are in their own Order.



The vampire squid is a “living fossil” meaning it has not changed much at all in 300 million years. It looks the same as it did when the dinosaurs were alive!

Vampire squid don't suck blood, but they do eat dead things, called detritus, that floats down to the ocean's depths.



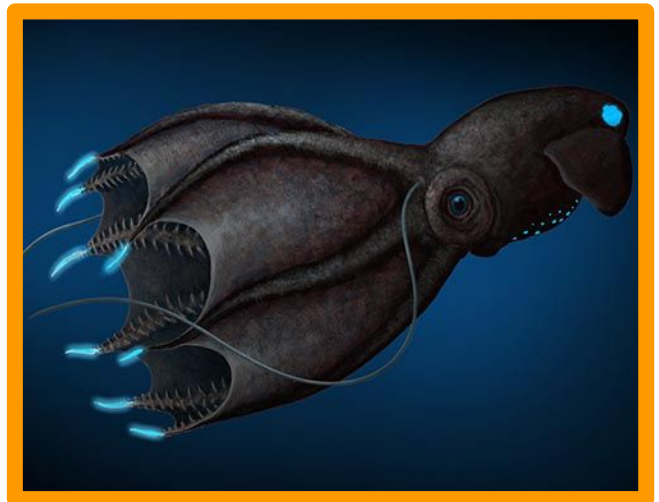
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Vampire squid are always dressed up for Halloween! Their tentacles are connected by a web, or cloak, that is black on the underside. Their white beak is in the center of their cloak.

Vampire squid can glow in the dark! Their photophores, or light-producing organs, can flash light into their deep, dark habitat.



They have the largest eyes in proportion to their body than any other animal. These eyes can be either blue or red!



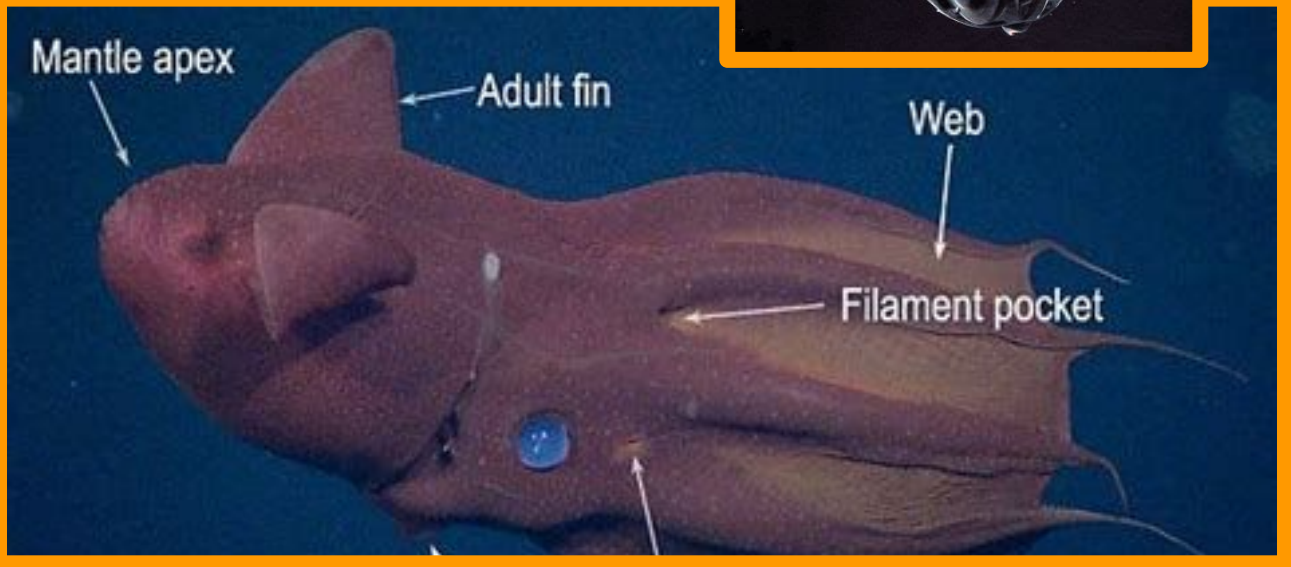
What similarities and differences can you find between vampire squid and their Cephalopod cousins, squid and octopuses?



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Vampire squid can turn themselves inside out in order to hide their photophores from predators - this is called the pumpkin position!



Not only can they make themselves glow, they can also emit bioluminescent sticky mucus from the ends of their tentacles. Like an octopus's ink, this confuses predators.

They have 8 arms, and 2 retractile sensory filaments that help them to feel around in the dark for both predators and prey. Can you find the filament pocket?

Do vampire squid remind you of anything? What is your favorite vampire squid fact?

