

Name _____

Cause and effect

Read.

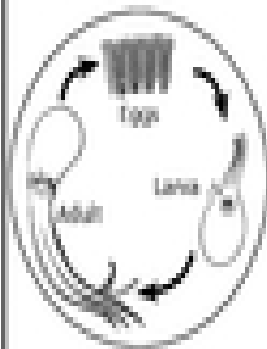
Life Cycle in the Sea

There are many kinds of octopuses swimming in the seas. They are different colors and different sizes. But each octopus goes through the same basic life cycle.

After mating, a female octopus may lay thousands of eggs. The eggs are often laid inside a safe den. The female tends to her eggs for a few weeks or months until they hatch. The female spends her time cleaning and protecting her eggs. She is so busy that she does not eat.

The eggs hatch and soon the female dies. The larvae that come from the eggs are on their own. They swim up toward the water's surface. Here they

eat and grow bigger. Most of these young octopuses will become food for other sea animals. The few that survive move back toward the bottom of the ocean. They make a den of their own. Then each finds a mate, and the life cycle begins again.



Read each statement.

Find the matching cause or effect below.

Write the statement on the chart.

Cause	Effect
Eggs are laid inside a safe den.	
The female spends all her time cleaning and protecting her eggs.	
	The larvae grow bigger.
	They will not become adults.

- Most young octopuses will be eaten by other sea animals.
- The female octopus protects them.
- The larvae feed at the water's surface.
- She does not eat and dies shortly after the eggs hatch.



Bonus Box: Why do you think the female octopus lays so many eggs? Write your answer on the back of the paper.