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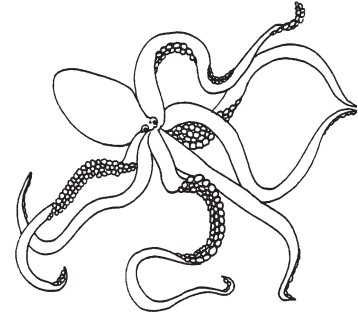
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## The Scary Seas

**PREVIEW WORDS**

<b>pretend</b>	<b>object</b>
<b>shallow</b>	<b>tentacle</b>
<b>overboard</b>	<b>squid</b>



Pretend you are a sailor living 200 years ago. You are crossing the ocean on a wooden ship. You will see no land for weeks.

What's the scariest thing that could happen? A storm? Getting lost?

Years ago, many sailors were scared of seeing a kraken. A kraken was a huge, round sea monster. Its eyes were almost two feet wide. It had lots of arms. It looked like a tree with all its roots torn up.

Krakens could grab ships and make them sink. They could squeeze a man until he choked.

For years, sailors tried to capture krakens. They were able only to wound them. They would get parts of arms and tails. These body pieces didn't make the long trip home. They rotted, and they were thrown overboard.

Then in 1878, some fishermen saw a large object. It was stuck in shallow water. They used rope to tie it to a tree. When the tide left, the creature died.

The sea monster measured 57 feet across from tail to tentacle. It was later found to be a giant squid. The kraken turned out to be real after all!

Today, scientists think squids might grow to be 200 feet long. That is almost the length of a football field.

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**Fill in the circle next to the best answer.**

1. The creature captured by fishermen in 1878 turned out to be what?
  - (A) a sea monster
  - (B) a kraken
  - (C) a giant squid

Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write a question about the story for another student to answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Finding Facts/Reading for Details*

3. How large were the eyes of the kraken? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. The arms of a giant squid are called what? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Sailors crossing the ocean 200 years ago had what kind of ship?

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*Cause and Effect*

6. What caused the captured sea creature to die? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Comparison/Contrast*

7. How is the kraken compared to a tree? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Evaluating Information*

8. Why would giant squids not be as much of a threat to today's ships as they were to ships hundreds of years ago? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Write a sentence using one of the Preview Words.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Research Activity:**

Look up *tides* in an encyclopedia or other source. Write several sentences explaining what causes ocean tides, how often they occur, and any other information you find. \_\_\_\_\_

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**WORDS****kraken****shallow****sink****giant****scared****capture****tide****tentacle****squids****monster****eyes****squeeze**

Use words in the box to complete each sentence.

1. Years ago, many sailors were \_\_\_\_\_ of seeing a kraken.
2. A kraken was a huge sea \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Krakens could grab ships and make them \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a kraken were almost two feet wide.
5. Sailors tried to \_\_\_\_\_ krakens.
6. The creature could \_\_\_\_\_ a man until he choked.
7. Some fishermen saw a large object stuck in \_\_\_\_\_ water.
8. When the \_\_\_\_\_ left, the creature died.
9. From tail to \_\_\_\_\_, the sea monster measured 57 feet across.
10. It was later found to be a \_\_\_\_\_ squid.
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ turned out to be real after all!
12. Scientists think \_\_\_\_\_ might grow to be 200 feet long.