Cuttlefish

Cuttlefish or cuttles[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuttlefish" \l "cite_note-3) are [marine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_(ocean)) [molluscs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molluscs) of the [order](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_(biology)) Sepiida. They belong to the [class](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class_(biology)) [Cephalopoda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cephalopod), which also includes [squid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squid), [octopuses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octopus), and [nautiluses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nautilus). Cuttlefish have a unique internal [shell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mollusc_shell), the [cuttlebone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuttlebone).

Cuttlefish have large, W-shaped [pupils](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pupil), eight [arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cephalopod_arm), and two [tentacles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tentacle) furnished with [denticulated](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/denticulate) suckers, with which they secure their prey. They generally range in size from 15 to 25 cm (6 to 10 in), with [the largest species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cephalopod_size), [*Sepia apama*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sepia_apama), reaching 50 cm (20 in) in [mantle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantle_(mollusc)" \o "Mantle (mollusc))length and over 10.5 kg (23 lb) in mass.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuttlefish#cite_note-4)

Cuttlefish eat small molluscs, crabs, shrimp, fish, octopus, worms, and other cuttlefish. Their predators include dolphins, sharks, fish, seals, seabirds, and other cuttlefish. The average life expectancy of a cuttlefish is about 1–2 years. Recent studies indicate cuttlefish are among the most [intelligent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cephalopod_intelligence) [invertebrates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invertebrate).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuttlefish#cite_note-NOVA-5) Cuttlefish also have one of the largest [brain-to-body size](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain-to-body_mass_ratio#Brain-body_size_relationship) ratios of all invertebrates.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuttlefish#cite_note-NOVA-5)

The "cuttle" in cuttlefish comes from the [Old English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English) name for the species, *cudele*, which may be cognate with the [Old Norse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Norse) *koddi*(cushion) and the [Middle Low German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Low_German) *Kudel* (rag).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuttlefish#cite_note-SOED-6) The [Greco-Roman world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Roman_world) valued the cuttlefish as a source of the unique brown [pigment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pigment) the creature releases from its [siphon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siphon_(mollusc)) when it is alarmed. The word for it in both [Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) and [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language), *sepia*, now refers to the reddish-brown color [sepia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sepia_(color)) in English.