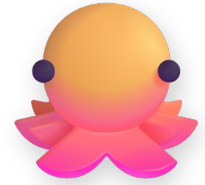




Read the story carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

## Deep Trench Discovery



The submersible Deep Explorer hummed softly as it moved through the dark Mariana Trench. Its powerful lights cut through the black water, showing rocks and strange shapes on the ocean floor. The pressure here was so great it could crush a car flat, but the Deep Explorer was built strong.

Suddenly, a small, graceful creature floated into view. It was a Dumbo Octopus, named for the large fins on its head that looked like elephant ears. It flapped its fins gently, moving slowly through the water. The scientists watched, amazed at how this soft creature could live in such a deep and crushing place. They learned that the Dumbo Octopus has a special body that helps it handle the extreme pressure, allowing it to glide and search for tiny food.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Where was the submersible Deep Explorer exploring?

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(2) What does the word "submersible" mean in this story?

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**(3) What is the main idea of this story?**

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**(4) How does the Dumbo Octopus survive in the deep Mariana Trench?**

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**(5) If you were a scientist on the Deep Explorer, what would you hope to discover next?**

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