

The Vampire Squid
Vampyroteuthis infernalis

SCIENCE
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The vampire squid (*Vampyroteuthis infernalis*) is a member of the class Cephalopoda. Cephalopods are a large group of soft-bodied marine invertebrates that include squid, octopuses, cuttlefish, and nautilus. While vampire squid may look like squid and octopus in some ways, they are much more primitive, closely resembling fossils more than 250 million-years-old. In spite of their scary-sounding name, vampire squid are delicate, slow-moving creatures that drift along in the dark, cold layer of the ocean called the oxygen-minimum zone. Organisms have a hard time surviving in this environment because of the low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water. As a result, there are few predators and even fewer organisms that vampire squid can prey upon. They feed primarily on tiny particles of organic material that drift down from the ocean surface, a substance sometimes called "marine snow." Vampire squid capture this organic material using a long, sticky feeding filament similar to a fishing line, then slurp off the bits and pieces that get stuck to it.

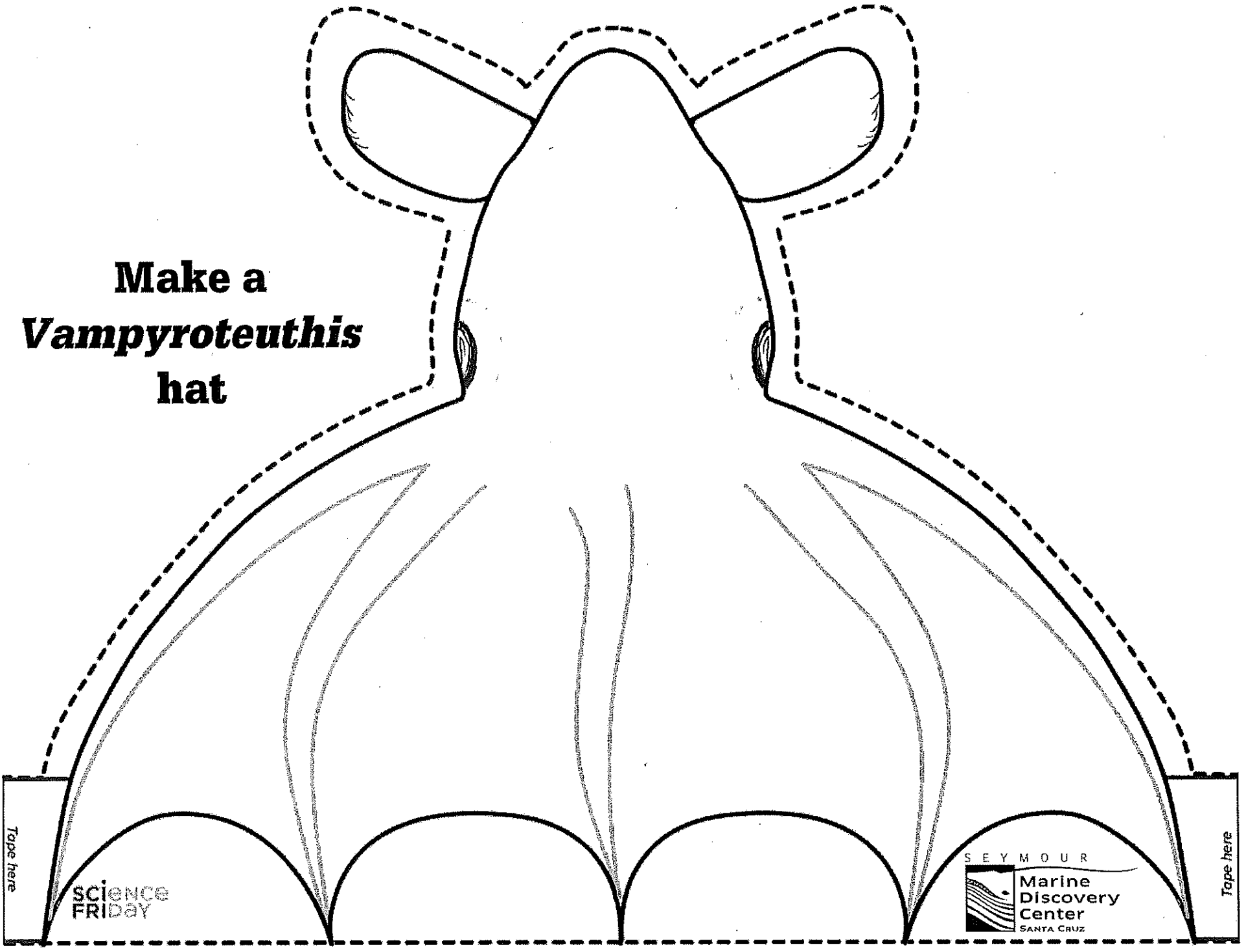
How to make a vampire squid hat:

1. Cut out the vampire squid on the second page along the dotted line.
2. Cut out the two paper strips at the bottom of this page along the dotted lines.
3. Use tape to attach one paper strip to each side of the vampire squid, where the tabs say, "tape here."
4. Hold the hat up to your head, adjust the fit, and tape the two straps together at the back of your head.

Tape here

Tape here

**Make a
Vampyroteuthis
hat**



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