

German 'psychic' octopus predicts victory for Spain



A "psychic" octopus in Germany, which appears to have correctly predicted every World Cup game involving the national team so far, has picked Spain over Germany in the semi-final.

Paul, from the Sea Life Aquarium in the western city of Oberhausen, chose a mussel from a jar with the Spanish flag instead of one with a German flag.

The two-year-old cephalopod has become a national celebrity.

According to his owners, he has a record of predicting German results.

They say Paul chose the winner in nearly 70% of Germany's games during the 2008 European Championship.

He correctly predicted all five of the team's previous World Cup games - including a shock defeat by Serbia in the group stages.

His prognosis ahead of Wednesday's World Cup semi-final was broadcast live on German TV.

Correspondents say Paul's plumping for Spain has caused alarm in the country, but some analysts point out that his predictive powers are not perfect.

During Euro 2008 he wrongly picked Germany as the victor against Spain.

Source of text:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/10521867.stm>

Source of photo:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/From-the-news-wires/2010/0626/Psychic-octopus-named-Paul-picks-Germany-over-England-in-World-Cup>

Name _____ Date _____

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Questions

1) What is the name of the 'psychic' octopus?

2) Where in Germany can this octopus be seen?

3) How did people in Germany find out the octopus's prediction of the World Cup semi-final result?

4) How old is the octopus?

5) What percentage of the 2008 games did the octopus predict?

6) How many of Germany's 2010 world cup results before the semi-final were correctly predicted by the octopus?

7) Which team beat Germany in the group stages?

8) How did the octopus indicate which team was going to win?

9) Which team won the Euro 2008 game between Germany and Spain?

Name _____ Date _____

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10) The word 'octopus' could be used in the passage instead of 'cephalopod' (paragraph three). What other word or phrase could be used instead of each of these words underlined in the passage?

a. involving _____

b. celebrity _____

c. predicting _____

d. previous _____

e. shock _____

f. prognosis _____

g. plumping _____

h. analysts _____

i. wrongly _____

j. victor _____

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ANSWERS

1) What is the name of the 'psychic' octopus?

Paul

2) Where in Germany can this octopus be seen?

Sea Life Aquarium, Oberhausen

3) How did people in Germany find out the octopus's prediction of the World Cup semi-final result?

Live on TV

4) How old is the octopus?

2 years

5) What percentage of the 2008 games did the octopus predict?

70%

6) How many of Germany's 2010 world cup results before the semi-final were correctly predicted by the octopus?

5

7) Which team beat Germany in the group stages?

Slovakia

8) How did the octopus indicate which team was going to win?

Choosing a mussel from a jar with the Spanish flag on it

9) Which team won the Euro 2008 game between Germany and Spain?

Spain

10) The word 'octopus' could be used in the passage instead of 'cephalopod' (paragraph three).

What other word or phrase could be used instead of each of these words underlined in the passage:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. involving | including |
| b. celebrity | star |
| c. predicting | foretelling |
| d. previous | earlier |
| e. shock | surprise |
| f. prognosis | prediction |
| g. plumping | opting |
| h. analysts | experts |
| i. wrongly | incorrectly |
| j. victor | winner |