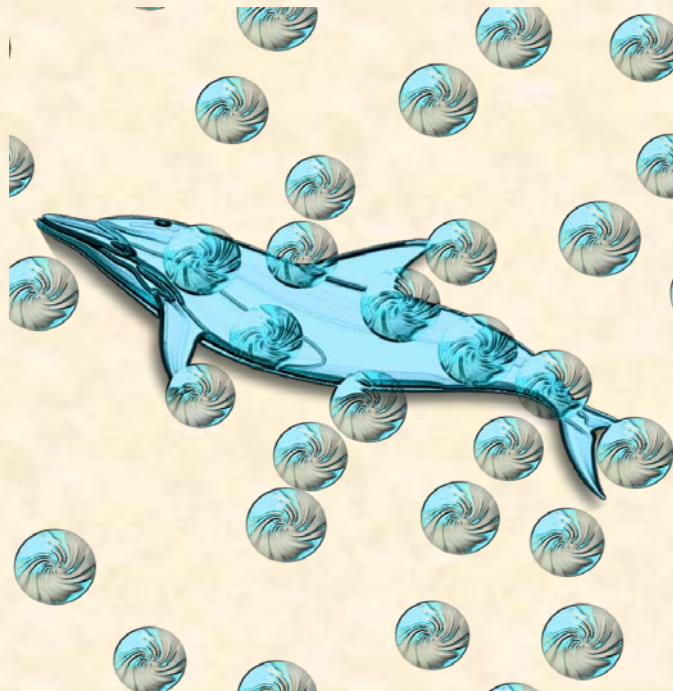


Irish's Story Playhouse

Presents:

DOLPHIN ADVENTURES

An Exercise in Language Arts



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Dolphin Facts



- Dolphins are mammals. Mammals feed their babies from milk produced by the mothers.
- Dolphins can swim up to 260 meters below the surface of the ocean. They are air breathing and come to the surface in order to breathe.
- Dolphins can stay up to 15 minutes under water, but they cannot breathe under the water.
- Dolphins use a technique called echolocation to find food and navigate. This is what they are doing when they vocalize. It is their way of really “seeing” the world below the water’s surface.
- Dolphins live in groups formed by 10 to 12 individuals. Most of the group are comprised of related dolphins.
- There are 36 different kinds of ocean dolphins and 5 species of river dolphins. Some species are friendlier than others.
- The largest dolphin is the “killer whale”, which isn’t a whale at all! You may know this dolphin as an orca. They are seen in shows at places like Sea World.
- The most known dolphin is the “bottlenose dolphin”. This is the type of dolphin that many people swim with in the water. They are curious, intelligent, and primarily gentle. Sometimes, dolphins can help those with special needs, such as autism.
- Dolphins, like all mammals, are warm-blooded.
- Dolphins communicate through sounds and whistles. Many scientist now believe dolphins have a complex and well developed language of their own.
- Dolphins eat fish and squid.



• Name _____ Date _____

Dolphins



Directions:

Read about dolphin facts. Then, answer the questions below. Make sure you use complete sentences and proper punctuation.

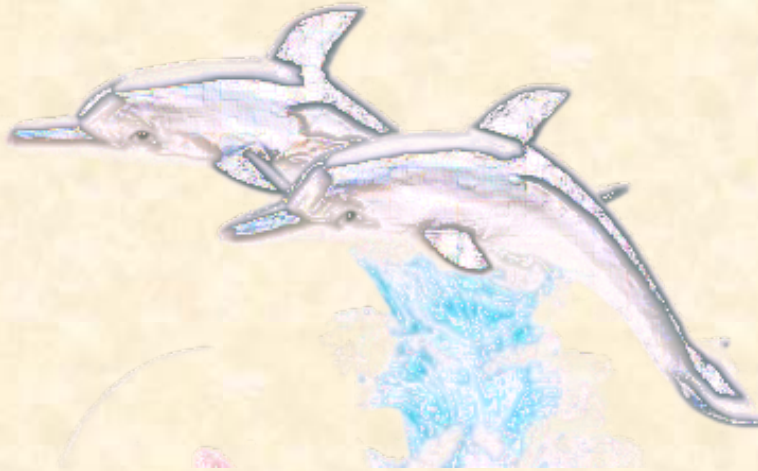
1. Dolphins are very sociable creatures. How do dolphins communicate?

2. What do dolphins use to help them move through the water?

3. How many dolphin species are there? Name two species of dolphins mentioned in the reading.



Where Dolphins Can Be Seen



Most people enjoy seeing dolphins. However, for many people, the only way to see a dolphin is to visit an aquarium. This may be great for people, but it hasn't always worked well for the dolphins.

In the old days, aquariums didn't always have a good way to take care of dolphins. The lack of proper care facilities and barren tanks caused many dolphins to die. They were captured in the wild and taken away from their families. Sometimes, the dolphins were injured.

Dolphins are very social and love their families. When they were taken away from their group, some dolphins suffered stress related diseases, such as pneumonia and ulcers. Even more dolphins died because of chlorine poisoning as the ocean is not treated with chlorine to keep it clean. The dolphins couldn't tell their new human owners what was the matter. Instead, the dolphins did not survive long in captivity.

Aquariums have changed, though. Standards of care were raised to help the dolphins as we learned more about these beautiful creatures. Laws were created to prevent the capture of wild dolphins in inhuman ways and some countries no longer capture wild dolphins at all. Many of the dolphins we now see were born in captivity and have never been wild.

In addition to better care in aquariums, the creation of coastal marine reserves have saved countless dolphin from a life inside a concrete cage. At the reserves, dolphins come and go as they please. They are observed by people in their natural habitat and are allowed to stay with their family groups. Sometimes, the dolphins will interact with humans. This freedom reduces the stress of the dolphins and helps to keep them safe, happy, and healthy.



Dolphins



After reading about the dolphins, answer the questions below. Remember to use complete sentences and proper punctuation.

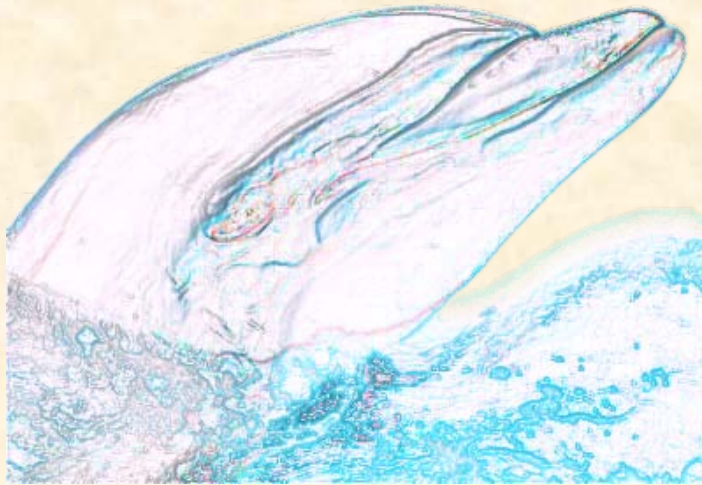
1. Why are Marine Reserves better for Dolphins?

2. Name two reasons why dolphins sometimes die in captivity.

3. Why do aquariums use chlorine in their water? Why is it bad for the dolphins?



Dolphins—Made for the Ocean



You might believe that dolphins are fish, but this is not true. Dolphins are mammals, not fish. They are warm blooded, just like you and I, and give birth to one baby at a time. A baby dolphin is called a calf and relies on its mother for nourishment.

Dolphins live in family pods, or groups. They can live for about forty years and are very social. Sometimes, they even interact and visit other pods that live nearby. So, like us, they need a lot of attention from their peers and have a social structure of behavior that is well developed.

Dolphins don't live on land, though. They must always live in the waters of the ocean. If you look at a dolphin's body, you can see just how well the body of the dolphin is adapted for their life in the ocean.

Dolphin tails are powerful and used for several things. The tail fluke helps the dolphin move through the water. It is also a great hunting weapon. Dolphins use their tails to hit fleeing fish up into the air. When the fish falls back into the water, it is stunned. The dolphins scoop up the fish and enjoy a fresh meal prepared tail style.

The tail of a dolphin is also used in communications. Slapping their tail on the water in the wild has two meanings, depending on the circumstances and the accompanying actions of the dolphin through vocalization and body movement. It can mean that the dolphin is annoyed or it can warn the pod of impending danger.

Pectoral fins are not just to look at, either. These fins are used to steer through the water and for social purposes. When dolphins are friends, they may swim touching each other with their pectoral fins to convey their feelings. As they do this, their swimming may be in sync with one another so that they appear to be dancing through the water in a beautiful display of grace.





Dolphins also have teeth. They use their teeth to eat fish and to protect themselves when needed. In the wild, an open mouth is a sign of aggression. If the dolphin wants to show even more aggression in the face of danger, then violent jaw clapping will be displayed to warn off enemies.

Dolphins breathe air. They use blowholes located at the top of their heads to breathe when they surface. It only takes about a fifth of a second for a dolphin to empty and refill its lungs. As the dolphin breathes, the speed at which the air leaves the blowhole can reach over 100 miles per hour.

Nerve endings in the blowhole let the dolphin open and close it at just the right times. Since dolphins breathe air, they can drown if water gets into their lungs. They may live in water, but their lungs run on air alone. Powerful muscles allow the dolphin to close their blowhole when diving or submerging in the water to avoid drowning.

The dolphin's eyes produce a special slippery secretion which protects the eyes from foreign objects and water friction. To sleep, a dolphin shuts down half of its brain, and keeps its breathing under voluntary control. Dolphins take short cat-naps, floating just below the surface, then slowly rising to breathe.

The dolphin's skin is completely smooth. This lets the dolphin to move easily through the water and reduces heat loss. Their skin may bear rake marks from other dolphins' teeth during play and can easily become badly sunburnt if they are stranded. Their bodies are very aerodynamic; and they can swim at high speeds through the water



Dolphins

After reading about dolphins, answer the questions below. Remember to use complete sentences and proper punctuation.

1. Why do dolphins hit fish into the air?

2. What does it mean when a dolphin slaps its tail in the water?

3. The dolphin's body is adapted to live in the ocean, true or false?

4. What helps a dolphin steer through the water?

5. What else are the pectoral flippers used for?

6. Dolphins may closely bond with other dolphins, true or false?



7. What might a dolphin's open mouth mean?

8. What action will a dolphin make if it is warning major aggression?

9. What do dolphins breathe through?

10. Where is the blowhole located?

11. How fast can air leave the blowhole?

12. When will the blowhole open?

13. How does the dolphin know when it is close to the surface?

14. Have you ever seen a dolphin? Describe your experience.



15. Describe the dolphin's skin.

16. Dolphins can get sunburn if stranded, true or false?



Name _____ Date _____
Dolphins

Directions:

Write each word in alphabetical order on the lines provided.

dolphins

mammals

warm-blooded

calf

Pods

sociable

tails

scooping

slapping

graceful

jumpers

divers

free

playful

flippers

friendly

harmony

blowhole

fast

smooth

mammals

Alphabetical Order

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18

