

Dolphins



Dolphins are aquatic mammals, not fish. Dolphins are extremely intelligent and sociable animals who live and hunt in groups. They have their own way to communicate with each other using special sounds.

Dolphins use a type of sound wave to detect what is around. This is called echolocation, which is like a radar to detect objects around them.



Dolphins are carnivores. They eat fish, squid and other small marine life. They often use a hunting tactic of circling around fish into a tight ball. Then they take turns going through the center of the ball to eat the fish.



They can jump as high as 6 meters (19 feet) out of the water and some can dive underwater as deep as 300 meters (980 feet). Dolphins can live up to 40 years.

Dolphins have large brains. Only one side of their brain sleeps at a time. This helps them to be able to breath and to watch out for danger, even when they are resting.



Dolphins use a blowhole on top of their heads to breath. There are around 40 different type of dolphins. The most common one is the Bottlenose. The Killer Whale, also known as Orca is actually a type of dolphin. Because Killer Whales are the largest of their kind, no other marine animal preys on them.