

ABOUT DOLPHINS

Dolphins are not fish. Dolphins are mammals just like humans. That means they breathe air, give live birth, and nurse their young.

A dolphin must come to the surface to blowhole at the top of its head. It is easy to see the surface of the water. Since dolphins surface every few minutes, you can track their movement.



Figure 1: Mother and Calf

The dolphin breathes through a blowhole at the top of its head. It is easy to find dolphins in the wild just by looking at the surface of the water. Since dolphins have to come up for air every six to ten minutes, you can track their movement.

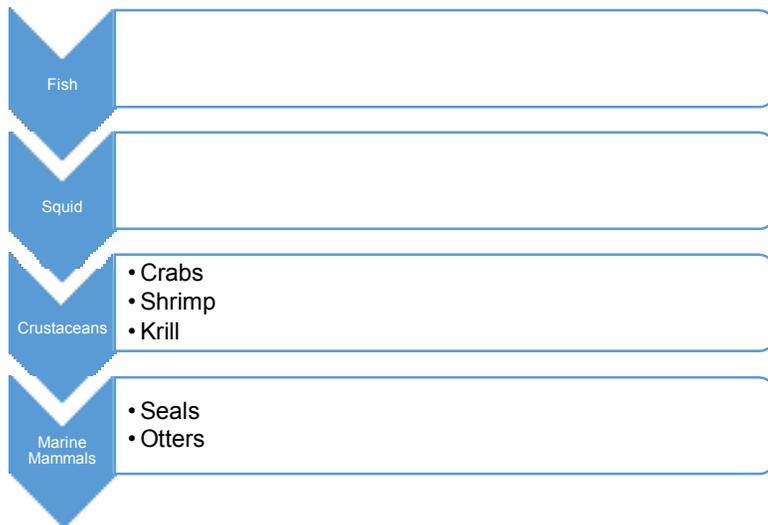
Dolphins give live birth. A mother dolphin stays close to her calf for protection and to so it can grow. The rest of the dolphin pod is hunting or feeding, other dolphins will

is a very attentive parent. Baby dolphins stay close to their mothers for protection and to so it can grow. The mother provides milk to her baby also helps watch the baby. When the mother is hunting or feeding, other dolphins will surround the baby so predators will not attack.

Feeding

The diet of a dolphin consists mainly of fish and squid. Catching the fish is often a communal effort. A pod of dolphins will circle a school of fish and squeeze the school into a bait ball. With the fish concentrated into a small ball area, individual dolphins will smash into the bait ball. The individual is thrashing and spinning to stun as many fish as possible. The stunned or injured fish are easily picked off by the dolphins that are still circling the bait ball.

Food Sources:



The diet of each dolphin species will vary depending on the available food sources in the area.

Speaking

Dolphins will use a system of whistles and clicks to communicate. These sounds travel well underwater. The clicks are used in echo location. This is like underwater radar. The click makes a directional sound wave. When the sound wave bounces off an object like a fish, the dolphin can detect the reflected wave using sensitivity in its teeth. It can be an effective method of hunting when it is dark or in deep water with low visibility.

Playing

Dolphins can be seen playing at or near the surface. Dolphins like to jump into the air, blow bubbles and surf.

Dolphins jump and twist in the air just for fun. Sometimes, these playful dolphins swim up to boats and seem to show off. They seem to seek out boats and beaches where humans are present. They seem to like the audience.

Dolphins can be seen surfing. Dolphins surf in waves along the shore just like humans on surfboards. In open water, dolphins swim in front of large ships and surf on the waves created by the ship.

Marine Dolphins

-  [Common Dolphin](#)
-  Risso's Dolphins
-  Bottlenose Dolphin
-  White-Sided Dolphin
-  White Beaked Dolphin
-  Dusky Dolphin
-  Falkland Island Dolphin
-  Hour Glass Dolphin
-  Peale's Dolphin
-  Sarawak Dolphin
-  Heaviside's Dolphin
-  Irrawaddy River Dolphins¹
-  White Bellied Dolphins
-  Broad Beaked Dolphins

Dolphins Named Whales

- 1. *Killer Whale Types***
 - 1.1. Orcas
 - 1.2. False Killer Whales
 - 1.3. Pygmy Killer Whales
- 2. *Pilot Whale Types***
 - 2.1. Pilot Whales
 - 2.2. Short-Finned Pilot Whales
- 3. *Right Whale Types***
 - 3.1. Southern Right Whale Dolphins
 - 3.2. Northern Right Whale Dolphins

Fresh Water Dolphins		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
Ganges River Dolphins	Platanista gangetica gangetica	India and Nepal
Indus River Dolphins	Platanista gangetica minor	India, Nepal and Pakistan
Amazon River Dolphins	Inia Geoffrensis	Brazil
Chinese River Dolphins	Lipotes vexillifer	China
Franciscana River Dolphins	Pontoporia blainvillei	Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay

Table 1: Found exclusively in freshwater rivers

¹ Lives in brackish waters only