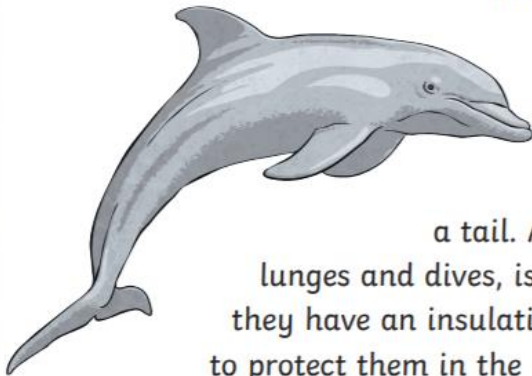


Read this text and answer the questions at the end.

Dolphins

What Do Dolphins Look Like?

A dolphin is a marine animal that is part of the whale family. Some can grow up to 9.8 metres and weigh over 5000kg. Hector's dolphins, the smallest known species, only reach an average length of 1.2 metres and an average weight of 50kg.



Dolphins have smooth, rubbery skin and are usually a mixture of black, white and grey in colour. They have two fins on their sides, a triangular fin on their back and a tail. A dolphin's tail, which propels the animal in lunges and dives, is horizontal unlike fish. Like other whales, they have an insulating layer of fat under the skin called blubber to protect them in the harsh cold of the freezing seas.

Dolphins are mammals, not fish, so they are warm-blooded and are able to maintain their body temperature. Like other whales, they have lungs and breathe through a single nostril called the blowhole which is located on the top of their head. The blowhole is opened at the surface of the water to inhale and exhale air.

Where Do Dolphins Live?

Dolphins live in the world's seas, oceans and rivers. They like to be with other dolphins, living together in groups called pods. In the wild, bottlenose dolphin pods are formed based on age, sex and family relationships. This could be mothers and their newborns or most recent offspring, a mix of male and female young dolphins and adult males either alone or in pairs. Dusky dolphins, commonly found off the coast of New Zealand, have been known to create superpods of over a thousand dolphins, due to being so well fed.



Some dolphin pods like to live in coastal areas while others choose to live in shallow waters away from the coast or further out to sea.

The Amazon river dolphin prefers to live in freshwater rivers and lakes. Other dolphins, such as the bottlenose dolphin, may visit lakes and can be seen close to cities.

Hunting Behaviour

Bottlenose dolphins are unique hunters - they hunt their prey by swimming around fish in large circles while beating their tails down hard to stir up the shallow silt (sea floor), making the water murky. The lead dolphin continues to do this, making the circle smaller and smaller, eventually trapping the fish like in a net. As the fish leap out of the circle to escape, the other dolphins catch them in their mouths.



Spinner dolphins, commonly found in the Pacific Ocean, can often be found swimming near tuna as the fish relies on the dolphins to find food. The dolphins communicate through clicks and whistles as they dive below the water. They swim under lantern fish to drive them to the surface for the pod and other fish to feed on.

A bottlenose dolphin can jump out of the water as high as 4.9 metres from the surface and can flip over onto their back, belly or side. This is known as breaching. They breach for many reasons, including to let other dolphins know there is food nearby.



Questions

When answering the questions, remember to underline key words and read around them. Read the sentences the words are in and the sentences before and after if you need to. Think carefully about what the questions are asking you to do. Where there is a choice of answers, check all possible answers before making a decision.

Monday

Read the text and underline any words which you do not understand. Find out the meanings of those words. If you find any too difficult, you can email me.

Tuesday

1. What family does the dolphin belong to? Choose one answer.
 - a) seal
 - b) otter
 - c) whale
 - d) shark
2. Find and copy one word that means keeping warm.
3. Order the events to show the order in which they occur in the **Hunting Behaviour** section. The first one is c.
 - a) They beat their tail down hard to stir up the shallow silt.
 - b) Other dolphins catch the fish in their mouth.
 - c) Bottlenose dolphins hunt their prey by swimming around fish in large circles.
 - d) The water changes to become murky.
 - e) The bottlenose dolphin makes the circle smaller and smaller to trap the fish like in a net.
4. What is the name of the action that dolphins perform as they jump out of the water and flip over onto their back, belly or side? Choose one answer.
 - a) Breach
 - b) Splash
 - c) Spin
 - d) Beach

Wednesday

5. Fill in the missing words.

A bottlenose dolphin can jump out of the water as high as 4.9 _____ from the surface and can flip over onto their back, _____ or side.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about dolphins using 25 words or fewer.

7. How much could a dolphin weigh? Choose one answer.

- a) Over 4000kg
- b) Over 6000kg
- c) Over 5000kg
- d) Over 500kg

8. Find and copy **two** words that describe the texture of their skin.

Thursday

9. Fill in the missing words.

The Amazon river dolphin prefers to live in _____ rivers and lakes. Other dolphins, such as the bottlenose dolphin, may visit lakes and can be seen close to _____.

10. How do spinner dolphins communicate with each other as they drive the lantern fish upwards? Choose two answer.

- a) Swimming quickly
- b) Clicks
- c) Whistles
- d) Flipping over

11. Find and copy one word which refers to something that lives in the sea.

12. Why do dolphin have a layer of blubber?

Friday

Read a text of your choice on Epic! (details below) and work through the quiz at the end.



Class Sign In Instructions

Laptop or Chromebook

Have your students open their web browser and

1. Go to www.getepic.com/students
2. Sign in with your class code
3. Select their name and they're in!

iOS/Android

Have your students open the Epic! app and

1. Click on "Have an account? Sign In" then click on "Students & Educators"
2. Sign in with your class code
3. Select their name and they're in!

