

Dolphins: Source I

Name: _____

Date: _____

Are dolphins really one of the smartest animals in the world?

Danni Washington - Marine Biologist

Published by Mystery Science - September 2023

Video Transcript:

It takes a special kind of thinking to solve a problem with a tool like that. A kind of thinking that only a few animals have. Like this dolphin. See that thing on its beak? That's a sea sponge. The Dolphins in Shark Bay Australia were getting cut by sharp rocks at the bottom of the ocean. That's a problem. So some of them started wearing sea sponges on their beaks like helmets so they wouldn't get hurt while hunting for food. Problem-solving like that takes more thinking than just finding a bowl of food.

And it's not just the dolphins in Australia that can problem solve. Dolphins all over the world are pretty incredible at thinking like that. For example, these dolphins thought up a great way to trap fish. See how that dolphin is making a wall of mud? The other members of its pod chased the fish into the wall of mud and the fish are getting trapped like in a big net. What a great idea. Working as a team to hunt and trapping fish like that definitely takes a special kind of thinking. But that's not all these dolphins are doing.

They're communicating while they're looking for food and that takes thinking to a whole new level. Hear those whistles? Those whistles aren't just random sounds. They mean something. See, dolphins use different whistles and chirps to communicate where they are when they're hunting. Some types of whistles mean they're happy, some mean they're scared, and some types mean they've found a large school of fish to eat and need help rounding them all up.

Get this: dolphins are such good communicators that they even have a special whistle to identify themselves. It's like their name. They use this special name whistle to tell their pods where they are so they don't get lost. Kind of like saying, "Hey Mom, I'm over here." Pretty cool. Dolphins have to think in a special way to communicate like that which makes animal experts believe they're some of the best thinkers in the animal world. Communicating takes thinking, so observing how animals like dolphins communicate is a good way to tell how smart they are.

Dolphins: Source 2

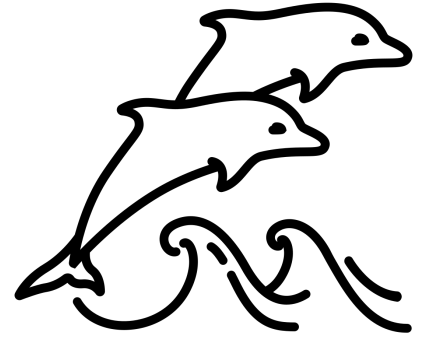
Name: _____

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Amazing Dolphins

Emily Simon - Published by Discovery Education - January 2024

Dolphins are mammals that live in water but breathe air. They are most commonly found in the ocean, although some types of dolphins live in rivers. Dolphins are predators, and mostly eat seafood like fish, squid, and jellyfish. They are known to be friendly to humans, and also well known for their incredible intelligence.



Dolphin Pods

Dolphins live in pods, which can be groups of 2-30 dolphins depending on the species. Within the pods, dolphins communicate with each other and create friends and enemies. They use sounds like clicks and whistles to communicate information and feelings. Dolphins even use names when addressing each other. This helps them stick together and not get lost. It also helps them when they join temporarily with other pods. Then they know who is who when they break apart into smaller pods again.

Sticking together in the pod helps keep dolphins safe from predators because they can alert each other to a nearby threat. Then they can plan for how they will run or fight the predator. Similarly, dolphins can alert each other when they sense that there are fish nearby that they want to eat. They can then plan to work together so that everybody gets fed.

Working Together

In the wild, dolphins have to solve all kinds of problems. One of their foods, lantern fish, tend to swim very deep in the ocean. Dolphins figured out that by swimming below them, they can get the lantern fish to come up to the surface for an easier snack. Other dolphins trap food by working together in groups to surround their food by swimming around it in a circle.

Dolphins have another problem in the wild: predators. Sharks are a big problem, and dolphins have to work together to stay safe. The main way they stay safe is by traveling in pods. It's less likely that a shark will want to come after a big group of dolphins. If they do, the dolphins will protect each other by putting weaker dolphins in the middle of the group and the stronger dolphins on the outside. The stronger dolphins can fight back against sharks by hitting them with their beaks. By working together, they can even fight off great white sharks.

Dolphins: Notes

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Dolphins are super smart animals. They can solve problems and even talk to each other! All this brain power can really help in tricky ocean situations.

Directions:

- Watch the video to hear from Danni Washington, a marine biologist.
- Read the source #2 text.
- Use the video transcript and the source #2 text to take notes on two ways dolphins use their intelligence to survive in the wild.

Dolphins communicate

Dolphins solve problems

Dolphins: Draft

Name: _____

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Directions: Write an informative text about two ways that dolphins use their intelligence to survive in the wild.

In your writing remember to:

- ☐ Write an introduction
- ☐ Organize your writing into paragraphs
- ☐ Add details and expert quotes
- ☐ Write a conclusion
- ☐ Edit your writing
- ☐ Cite your sources in the bibliography









Dolphins: Draft

Name: _____

Date: _____

If you need more space, continue on a piece of lined paper.

Bibliography

1	 Author: _____	 Date: _____
	 Title: _____	 Publisher: _____
2	 _____	 _____
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