



# DOLPHINS

## KEY INFORMATION

Dolphins are marine mammals with adaptations that allow them to spend their entire lives in the water. Dolphins live in the ocean and along the coastlines, however, try to avoid oceans near the Arctic and Antarctic as they are warm-blooded creatures. There are currently 42 species of dolphins, and some species can live up to 60 years.



## APPEARANCE

Dolphins have smooth, rubbery skin and are usually coloured in some mixture of black, white, and grey. They have two flippers on their sides, as well as a fin on their back. They have a layer of blubber (fat) beneath their skin that keeps them warm. Dolphins can grow from 6 to 12 feet and can weigh as much as 600 pounds.

Dolphins have a blowhole at the top of their heads to take breathes when they come to the top of the water. When they go back down, the blowhole is tightly shut so water cannot get into the dolphin's lungs.

## DIET

Dolphin are carnivores, they eat fish, like sawfish and mackerel. They also eat squid, shrimps, jellyfish, and octopus. Dolphins have few natural enemies and the only predator for dolphins are the larger species of sharks.

## FUN FACTS

Dolphins are fast sprinters and can reach over 30 miles per hour. When hunting, dolphins like to blow bubbles to herd their preys to the surface. Dolphins communicate using whistling, clicking and squeaking noises.

Dolphins can turn off half of their brain when they sleep and keep one eye open. They do this to make sure their group stick together when asleep and to look out for predators. A dolphins pregnancy lasts between 9 and 16 months.

## Find Out More...

Insert link here

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/dolphins>

[https://dolphins.org/natural\\_history](https://dolphins.org/natural_history)

<https://uk.whales.org/whales-dolphins/facts-about-dolphins/>



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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What type of animal is a dolphin?
2. How much can dolphins weigh?
3. What do dolphins eat?
4. How big can dolphins grow up to?
5. True or false. Dolphins turn half their brain off