

Dolphins

A Reading A-Z Level I Leveled Book
Word Count: 254

LEVELED BOOK • I

Connections

Writing

Write an acrostic poem about dolphins.

Use the word *dolphin* as the acrostic.

Each letter in the word begins a new line of your poem.

Science

Think of another animal you know about.

How are a dolphin and the other animal the same and different? Share your ideas with a partner.



Dolphins

**Reading A-Z**

Visit www.readinga-z.com
for thousands of books and materials.

Written by Emily Bryk

www.readinga-z.com



Focus Question

What is a dolphin?

Words to Know

female	Pods
grab	protect
mammals	steer

Photo Credits:
Front cover, back cover, page 13: Helmut Corneli/Alamy Stock Photo; title page: © Konrad Wothe/Minden Pictures; page 3: Arco Images GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo; page 4: © RIZWAN TABASSUM/AFP/Getty Images; pages 5, 15 (bottom left): © Flip Nicklin/Minden Pictures; page 6: FLPA/Alamy Stock Photo; page 7 (top, bottom center): © iStock.com/UfimtsevaV; page 7 (top center, bottom right): SHIZUKA AOKI/National Geographic Image Collection; page 7 (bottom left): © iStock.com/MaskaRad; page 8: IS2008-11/Cultura Creative (RF)/Alamy Stock Photo; page 9 (top): © Andrey Nekrasov/ZUMA Press/Newscom; page 9 (bottom): © iStock.com/bazilfoto; page 10: © Gerard Lacz/agefotostock/age footstock; page 11: © Christopher Swann/Science Source; pages 12, 14: © Augusto Leandro Stanzani/ardea; page 15 (top left): © Mark Boulton/ardea; page 15 (top right): © Troels Jacobsen/Arcticphoto/NPL/Minden Pictures; page 15 (bottom right): Josie Elias/Alamy Stock Photo

Dolphins
Level I Leveled Book
© Learning A-Z
Written by Emily Bryk

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL I	
Fountas & Pinnell	I
Reading Recovery	15-16
DRA	16



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Dolphins Are Mammals	5
All About Dolphins	7
Dolphins and Sound	10
Dolphins Groups	12
Conclusion	15
Glossary	16

Introduction

Dolphins live in every ocean in the world.

Some even live in rivers.



This kind of dolphin lives in a muddy river. Over time, its eyes have become weak because it can't see through the mud.



Most dolphin mothers are pregnant for about a year. Some can be pregnant for eighteen months before they give birth to a baby!

Dolphins Are Mammals

Dolphins are **mammals**.

They can keep their body warm.

Dolphin mothers make milk for babies.

They do not lay eggs.

Instead, their babies are born live.

Dolphins breathe in air through a hole on their head. Most of the time, dolphins breathe a few times a minute. They can hold their breath for more than a minute when they need to.



The hole dolphins use to breathe is called a *blowhole*.

Wowser!

Dolphins don't sleep for hours at a time like most animals. Instead, they rest part of their brain for fifteen to twenty minutes at a time. Because parts of their brain are still working, dolphins stay near the surface while asleep. This way, they can get air when they need it. While they sleep, dolphins even keep one eye open!

All About Dolphins

Dolphins are different sizes.
They can be big or small.

Do You Know?

There are almost forty kinds of dolphins. Killer whales, or orcas, are the largest. They can be 10 meters (32 ft.) long. Maui (MOW-ee) are the smallest type of dolphin. They are only 1 meter (4 ft.) long.



Maui's dolphin
1 meter (4-6 ft.)

Some dolphins only have four teeth.
Others have more than
two hundred teeth!

Dolphins do not use their teeth
to chew.

They use their teeth to **grab** food.
Then they eat it whole.



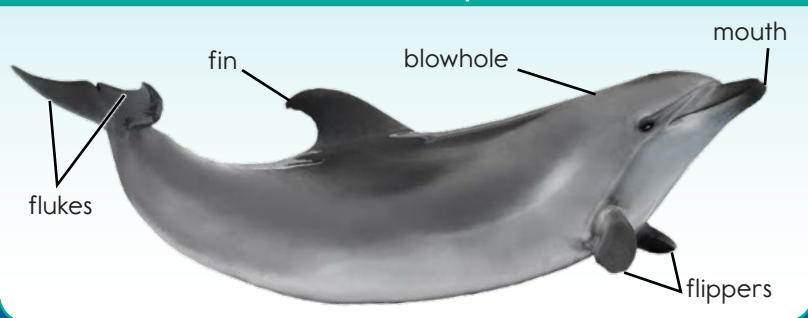
Dolphins sometimes scratch each other's skin with their teeth.
This is called *raking*.



Each side of a dolphin's tail is called a *fluke*.

Dolphins move their tail up and down to swim.
A fin on their back keeps them steady.
A flipper on each side helps them **steer**.

Parts of a Dolphin



Dolphins and Sound

Dolphins are smart.
Dolphins use sound to talk to other dolphins.
Dolphins also use sound to find food.



Dolphins use clicks, whistles, and squeaks to talk to each other. Scientists think each dolphin also has its own sound.

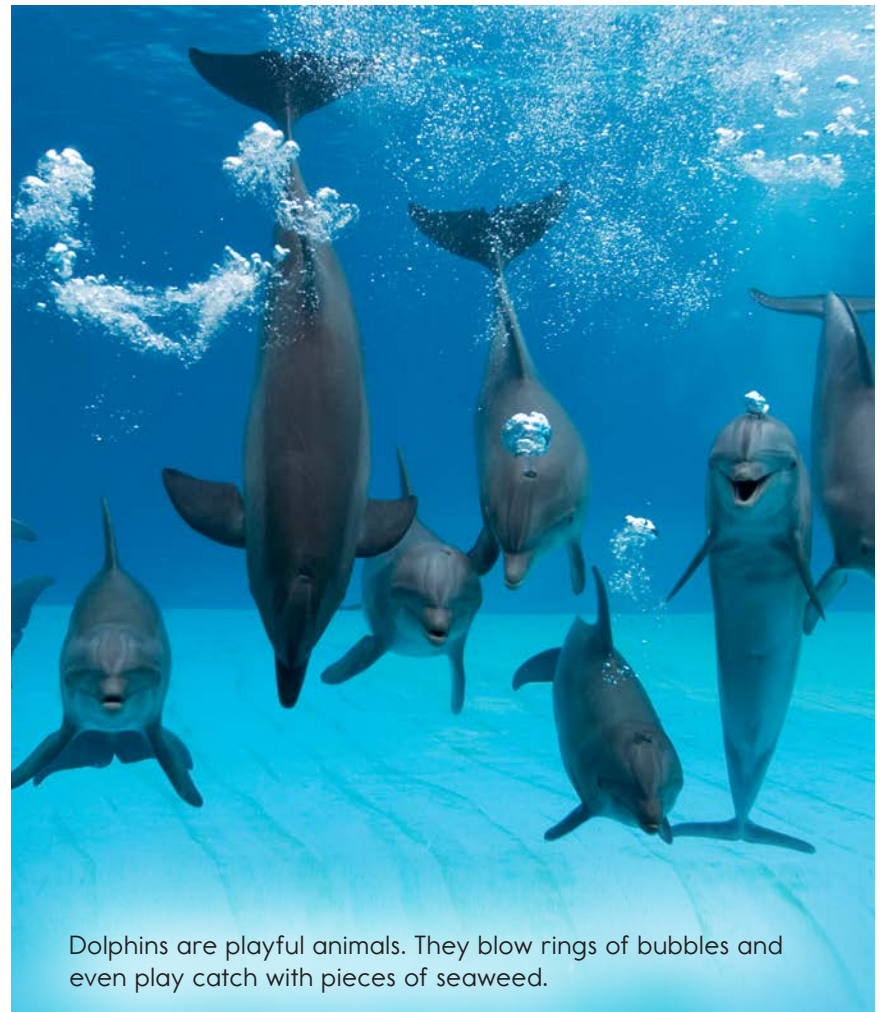
Some Ways That Dolphins Hunt

A group of dolphins often uses a "bait ball" to hunt. A school of fish forms a tight ball. Some dolphins swim around the ball to keep fish from swimming away. Others stay below to keep watch. Dolphins take turns swimming into the ball to feed.

When a dolphin hunts, first it makes clicking sounds. Next, it listens and waits for echoes to bounce off of a fish or squid. Then, the dolphin can attack.



Dolphins swim around a bait ball.



Dolphins are playful animals. They blow rings of bubbles and even play catch with pieces of seaweed.

Dolphin Groups

Dolphins live in groups called **Pods**. They live in pods to find food and keep each other safe.

Dolphins move from pod to pod.
Sometimes they change pods
more than once a day.



Most pods have as many as twelve dolphins.

Mothers form pods with other
mothers to **protect** their babies.
Even after they leave, young
dolphins may return to swim
with their mother.
Some **female** dolphins even return
to raise their babies with their
own mother.



Young dolphins stay with their mother for as many as six years.



Hector's dolphin



white-beaked dolphin



bottlenose dolphin



Indo-Pacific dolphin

Conclusion

There are many different kinds of dolphins.

They all use sound to talk and find food.

Most dolphins form close groups.

Dolphins are amazing animals!

Glossary

female
(*adj.*)

of, relating to, or being a plant or animal that can make babies, eggs, or seeds (p. 14)

grab (*v.*)

to take hold of in a quick, strong way (p. 8)

mammals
(*n.*)

warm-blooded animals with backbones and hair or fur that make milk for their babies and have babies that are born live (p. 5)

pods (*n.*)

groups of dolphins or whales that live together (p. 12)

protect
(*v.*)

to guard or keep safe from harm or danger (p. 14)

steer (*v.*)

to turn to move in a new direction (p. 9)