

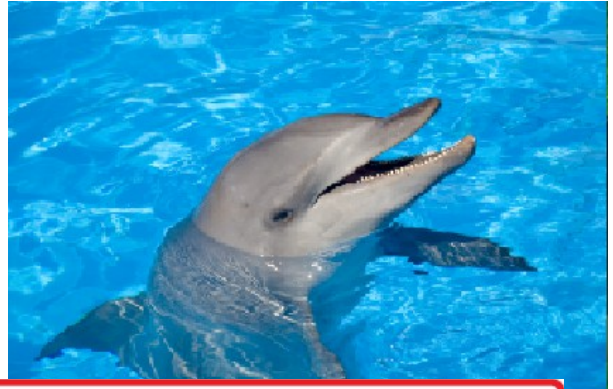
Name: _____

Dolphins and Porpoises

By Guy Belleranti

Porpoises and dolphins are fascinating and beautiful sea creatures. They are in the group of whales called toothed whales.

Many people think dolphins and porpoises are fish, but this is simply not true. They are mammals, just like dogs, cats, horses,



cow
dolp
whic
stay
born
mar

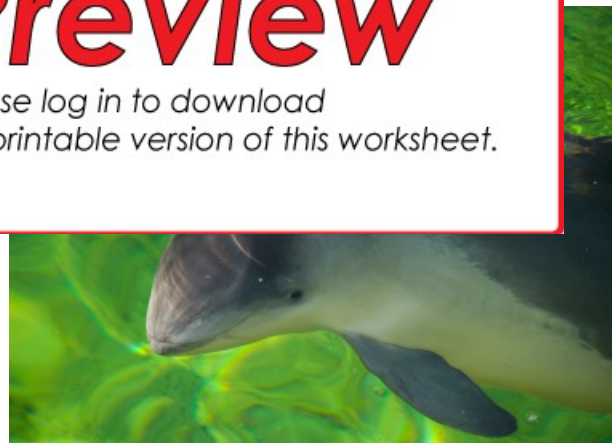


Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

and porpoises need to come up to the surface of the water to breathe through the blowhole in the top of their heads.

Most porpoises and dolphins eat fish, squid, and crustaceans. However, the largest species of dolphin, the orca, also hunts seals, penguins, walruses, and whales.



A porpoise is smaller and more shy than a dolphin. It has a rounded snout.

Both porpoises and dolphins use echolocation. This means they send out sounds and then listen for the echoes bouncing back. Echolocation helps them find food and escape predators.

Both porpoises and dolphins are toothed whales. However, porpoise teeth are shaped differently than dolphin teeth. Dolphins have sharp, cone-shaped teeth, but porpoise teeth are spade-shaped and flatter.

Their bodies are shaped differently, too. Porpoises are shorter with more rounded beaks and bodies. The dorsal fins on their backs are also shorter and less pointed. Dolphins, on the other hand, have longer, more pointed beaks. Their dorsal fins are taller and more pointed too.

Porpoises are usually under seven feet (two meters) long. Many dolphins are over ten

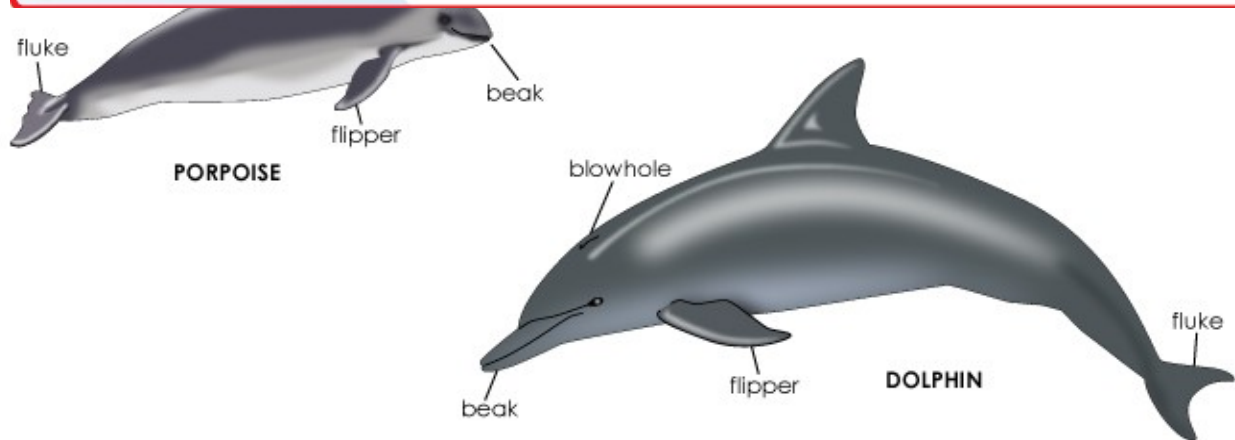
feet (

Dolph



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.



Dolphins are very social animals. They live in large groups called pods, with up to a dozen individuals. Dolphins enjoy interacting with humans. Sometimes they swim beside boats and make whistling and chirping sounds as they talk. Porpoises are much more shy than dolphins, and they tend to avoid human interaction. They usually live in smaller pods of 2 to 4 individuals. Their sounds can't be heard by our ears.



About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with wild animals and teaching others.

Name: _____



Dolphins and Porpoises

By Guy Belleranti

1. List three ways mentioned in the article that dolphins and porpoises are alike.

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. What is the largest species of dolphin? _____

3.

Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

4. Both dolphins and porpoises...

- a. are gray fish found in the Atlantic Ocean
- b. live in large pods of 12 or more
- c. have the same type of teeth
- d. are types of whales

5. Explain the differences between a dolphin's dorsal fin and a porpoise's dorsal fin.

Venn Diagram



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

Name: _____

Both



Cut out the characteristics of dolphins and porpoises.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| about 10 feet (3 meters) long | breathes through a blowhole |
| shorter, rounder dorsal fin | mammals |
| use echolocation | lives less than 20 years |
| more shy | lives in pods |
| spade-shaped teeth | taller, pointed dorsal fin |

Use the Venn diagram.

| |
|------------------------------|
| more social |
| cone-shaped teeth |
| about 7 feet (2 meters) long |
| lives about 50 years |
| warm-blooded |



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

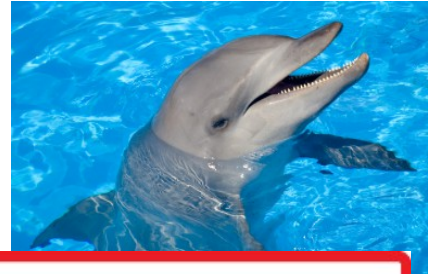
Name: _____

Dolphins and Porpoises

By Guy Belleranti

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line.

Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



7. _____

a p e e s c

hint: break free from; run away from

ANSWER KEY



Dolphins and Porpoises

By Guy Belleranti

1. List three ways mentioned in the article that dolphins and porpoises are alike.

Accept any 3:

both are mammals

both breathe air

both warm-blooded

both have blubber

both use echolocation

both have blowholes

2.

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

3.

4.



5.

A dolphin's dorsal fin is taller and more pointed. A porpoise's dorsal fin is shorter and more rounded.

PORPOISE



about 7 feet (2 meters) long

shorter, rounder dorsal fin

more shy

lives less than 15 years

spade-shaped teeth

Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.



ANSWER KEY

Dolphins and Porpoises

By Guy Belleranti

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line.

Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. beak

a k b e

2. to

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

3. so

4. co

5. bo

6. po



7. escape

a p e e s c

hint: break free from; run away from