All About Dolphins

Common name: Dolphin **Scientific name?** Odontoceti

Where do dolphins live?
Dolphins can be found all over the world (in every ocean!) and can live in temperatures as low as 0°C to as high as 30°C .

Do dolphins live in Britain?
Yes! You'll find bottlenose dolphins around the coast of West Wales and Eastern Scotland, and also some pods around the coastline in Devon and Cornwall.

How many different types of dolphin are there?
There are 36 species of marine dolphins - the most common species is the bottlenose dolphin.

Do dolphins like to have friends?
Yes they do! Dolphins are really sociable and live in groups called pods. And they like to take care of each other - did you know that when dolphins sleep, they 'turn off' half of their brain and sleep with one eye open - this means they can keep watch over their pod, and look out for predators, such as sharks.

What do dolphins eat?
Dolphins like to eat fish, squid and crustaceans like shrimp, depending on where in the world they live. They blow bubbles to herd their prey to the surface and often do something called 'fish-whacking' to stun the fish so they're easier to catch.

How do dolphins communicate?
Dolphins are very chatty, which you probably know if you've ever been lucky enough to see one! They make lots of noises, such as clicks, whistles, yelps, squawks, squeaks and barks! By making clicking sounds and measuring the echo that comes back to them, they're able to tell the size, speed and shape of things underwater.

Finally...
Believe it or not, dolphins are quite slow swimmers. Bottlenose dolphins prefer to keep to an average speed of just 2mph! They can 'sprint' up to speeds of 30mph when they want to though.

DID YOU KNOW?

Orcas, or killer whales, are actually a species of dolphin! They are the largest of the dolphin species and are instantly recognisable with their black and white colouring

FUN FACT!

Did you know the Amazon river in South America is home to four species of river dolphins that are found nowhere else in the world?!

DID YOU KNOW?

Dolphins are intelligent!
They can recognise themselves in a mirror and have even been known to use tools!

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