



These activities are designed to increase your students' learning opportunities during your visit to Marineland's Dolphin Conservation Center. Answers to all of these questions can be found by reading our educational signage or by observing the dolphins.

We appreciate your support with marine education and conservation.

Natural History

Fill in the blank with the correct words.

1. Bottlenose dolphins are found in temperate waters all over the world.
2. The length of time that an animal is pregnant is known as the gestation period.
3. Social groupings of dolphins are called pods.
4. Healthy diets are important to dolphins to form a blubber layer. This keeps the dolphin warm in cooler waters.
5. Feeding wild dolphins is not safe for you or the dolphin and is illegal.

Dolphin Anatomy

Fill in the blank with the correct words.

1. The pectoral flippers have an internal bone structure. It is similar to a human hand!
2. The rostrum serves as the receiver for returning echolocation signals.
3. Dolphins breathe out of their blowhole.
4. The dorsal fin is made out of connective tissue, similar to cartilage.
5. A dolphin can reach speeds of 17 mph. It can also jump up to three times its own body length out of the water.
6. Two areas of the dolphin's body that aide with thermoregulation are the tail flukes and the dorsal fin.
7. The pectoral flippers are used for steering, turning, stopping, and backing up.

Conservation Issues

Circle the best answer.

1. Ways that people contribute to habitat degradation is:
 - a.) fishing gear (dragging nets)
 - b.) global warming
 - c.) both a and b

Answer: C
2. Bottom trawling is one of the most destructive fishing methods currently used. This is when nets are pulled behind a boat
 - a.) along the surface of the water
 - b.) along the floor of the ocean
 - c.) none of the above

Answer: B
3. Global warming is affecting the ocean by
 - a.) decreasing the water temperature
 - b.) maintaining the water temperature
 - c.) increasing the water temperature

Answer: C
4. Dolphins can store toxins like DDT and PCB in their
 - a.) tail flukes
 - b.) blubber layer
 - c.) pectoral flippers

Answer: B
5. Recent studies conducted at the Dolphin Conservation Center at Marineland on the hearing of our dolphins compared to that of wild dolphins suggest that dolphins not exposed to noise pollution have ____ hearing than those in the wild.
 - a.) better
 - b.) worse
 - c.) equal

Answer: A
6. It is _____ to harass or feed wild dolphins.
 - a.) okay
 - b.) illegal
 - c.) safe

Answer: B

What YOU can do!

List 5 changes or additions in your life that can improve the life for dolphins and other wildlife.

1. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
2. Decrease Pollution
3. Land Preservation
4. Wise Seafood Choices
5. Watchable Wildlife

Dolphin Behavior

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

1. Dolphins will often bow ride along with a boat to save energy.
2. Sleeping is not something dolphins can do because they are conscious breathers. Instead they rest one hemisphere of their brain at a time.
3. When a dolphin creates loud noises by jaw clapping, this can be a sign of aggression.
4. A dolphin can spy-hop to see what is going on in the world above the ocean.
5. When pods of dolphins are trying to get somewhere quickly, you may see them porpoise.
6. A dolphin might breach in order to scratch an itch.

Protect Wild Dolphins

1. What is the name of the law that protects wild dolphins in the United States?
The Marine Mammal Protection Act
2. What are some reasons that it is a bad idea to interact with wild dolphins?
 - a. It's illegal.
 - b. Dolphins can be aggressive.
 - c. It can disturb their natural behaviors.
 - d. It can teach them to approach boats.

“Did you know...”

Answer the following questions from the signs on the railings.

1. How many teeth do Bottlenose Dolphins have?
80-100
2. How many chambers does a Bottlenose Dolphin's stomach have?
Three
3. What do scientists believe is the reason that dolphin calves are born with whiskers?
To feel for the mammary slits on their mother from which they can nurse.
4. How long is an Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin pregnant for?
52 – 54 weeks (1 year)
5. What is the difference between a flipper and a fin?
A flipper has bones inside and a fin does not.
6. Approximately how many different kinds of dolphins are there?
More than 30.
7. How frequently will a dolphin slough its outer layer of skin?
Every 2 hours.
8. How quickly can a Bottlenose Dolphin swim?
Up to 20 mph.
9. What is the deepest depth that a Bottlenose Dolphin is known to have reached?
2,700 feet.
10. Why are dolphins always smiling?
It is believed that the curvature of the mouth causes the salt water to spill out the back, preventing the dolphin from ingesting it.

Circle True or False

11. Dolphins breathe air using lungs; therefore air pollution as well as water pollution can be very dangerous. T or F (True)
12. The dolphin breathes out of its mouth. T or F (False) The dolphin breathes out of the hole on top of its head called the blowhole.
13. Dolphins do not have a sense of smell. T or F (True)
14. Dolphins have vocal cords and produce sounds in the same way that humans do. T or F (False) Dolphins produce sounds by moving air through air sacs inside their melon and the sounds are then released through the blowhole.
15. A dolphin's body temperature is much cooler than ours due to living in the water. T or F (False) A Bottlenose Dolphin's body temperature is right around 98 degrees. Almost exactly the same as yours!
16. Dolphin calves are typically born tail first. T or F (True)
17. Dolphins see in black and white. T or F (False) Dolphins see in limited colors – primarily blues and greens.
18. Dolphins drink salt water and excrete the salt through their blowhole. T or F (False) Dolphins do not drink salt water. They get all the hydration they need from the fish that they eat.