

Dolphins

Dolphins are often thought of as the friendliest creatures in the sea and stories of them helping drowning sailors have been around since Roman times. The more we learn about dolphins, the more we realise how they behave. For example, they look after other dolphins when they are sick, they take special care of pregnant mothers within the group. Some scientists think that the dolphins have their own language but others think they can communicate without needing words. Some of these groups that hunt and play together can be as large as 1,000 dolphins or more.

Dolphins are carnivores, they live on a diet that includes fish and squid. Dolphins are mammals and because of this they have to come to the surface of the water to breathe. They breathe through their blowhole, which is at the top of their heads. This blowhole is similar to our nostrils and this allows them to breathe without lifting their head out of the water. Dolphins can hold their breath for 8 -10 minutes. Dolphins live longer in the ocean than they do in zoo's and water parks.

There are forty types of dolphin, the one most people think of is the Bottlenose Dolphin. Did you know that a Killer Whale is actually a dolphin ?

www.nationalgeographickids.com

Read the text and answer the questions.

1. What a genre is this text ?

2. Why are dolphins thought of as kind?

3. In what ways can dolphins communicate ?

4. What do dolphins eat ?

5. What do they use to breathe?

6. Fact or opinion

Dolphins are mammals. _____.

Dolphins are always the fastest swimmers. _____

Dolphins can hold their breath for 8 -10 mins. _____

Dolphins live longer in the ocean. _____

Dolphins are always blue in colour. _____

7. What is the meaning of?

Carnivore : _____

Communicate: _____

Surface: _____

8. Can you write one fact from the text and one opinion of your own.

Stingrays

Stingrays are commonly found in shallow coastal waters. They spend most of their time inactive. They are usually half buried in the sand, only moving when the tide sways. The stingray is usually the colour of the sea floor, this is a protective measure (camouflage) from sharks or larger rays.

The stingray has a flattened body and a long tail at the back. Its mouth, nostrils and gills are situated on its underbelly.

Many rays have jaw teeth which allows them to crush clams, oysters and mussels. They are carnivores and eat any animal that live on or underneath the sand. They like to eat animals that are smaller than themselves.

When they do move they move their body like a wave or flap their sides like wings and the tail assists them this movement. The tail's main purpose is protection. It has sharp edges and barbs which end in a sharp point. On the underside some rays produce venom which is poisonous to humans. They use this to harm their attacker.

There are 69 different types of stingray. They are closely related to sharks. Stingrays rarely attack humans and in some countries such as Singapore they are hunted by humans for food. No one knows how long stingrays live in the wild, but in human care they live for around 5-10 years.

Smithsonian's National Zoo website.

Read the text and answer the questions.

1. What's genre is this text?

2. Where area stingrays commonly found?

3. How do stingrays camouflage themselves?

4. What is the stingrays diet?

5. Describe the tail.

6. Fact or Opinion

Stingrays are the best at camouflage _____

Stingray are carnivores _____

Stingrays use their tail to protect themselves. _____

All rays have beautiful coloured skin. _____

7. What is the meaning of?

Venom: _____

Underbelly: _____

Rarely : _____

8. Write one fact text and one opinion for the text.

9. Can you think of some questions on the text that your partner can answer?
