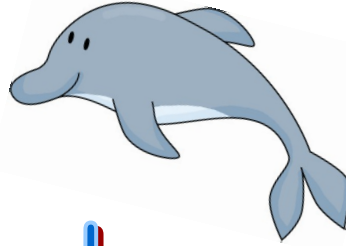


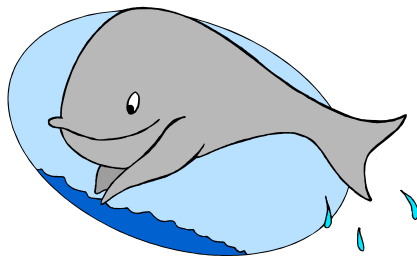
Sharks!



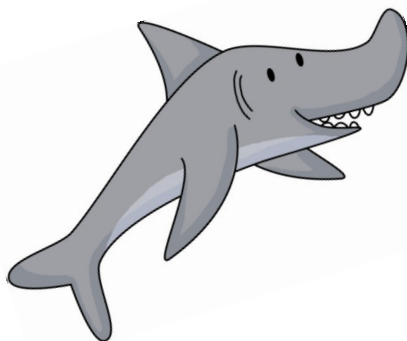
Dolphins!

Whales!

Oh My!



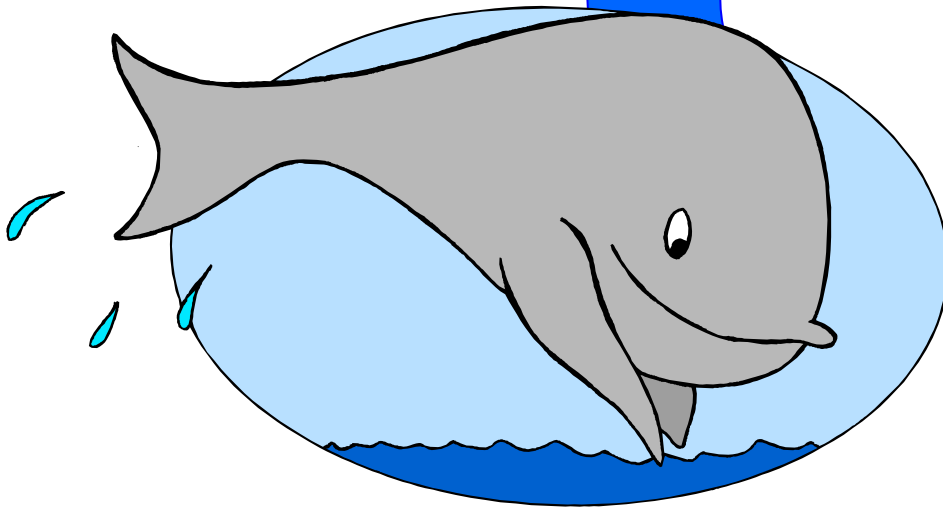
Reading Comprehension



Copyright©DeeAnnMoran2012

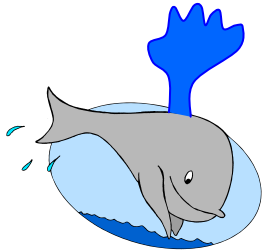
Graphics by Scrappin Doodles

## Spouting Off About Whales



Use the following comprehension strategies to find the answers to the questions.

- \*Read the questions first
- \*Number the paragraphs
- \*Read the story
- \*Read the first question
- \*Find the answer & highlight it
- \*Write a 1 by highlighted answer for question 1
- \*Write your answer using a complete sentence
- \*Repeat with question number 2



## Spouting Off About Whales

Whales are enormous sea animals. Whales look like fish but whales are not fish. Whales have smooth skin but fish have scales. Whales are mammals and give birth to live babies and feed them their milk while most fish hatch from eggs. A baby whale is called a calf.

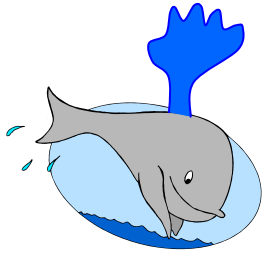
The smooth skin of a whale helps them glide through the water. Under their skin, whales have a thick layer of fat which is called blubber. Whales are warm-blooded animals and need protection from the cold. The blubber is about six inches thick and keeps the whale warm in the water. The temperature inside a whale's body is always the same even in cold water. Fish are cold-blooded and the temperature of their body changes with the temperature of the water.

Whales are very good swimmers. They have flukes which are horizontal, flat tail fins that the whale flaps up and down and allows them to swim through the water easily. They use their flippers to steer and balance in the water.

Whales have lungs and breathe air through blowholes on the top of their head. Whales breathe through the blowholes like you breathe through your nose. Whales can dive down deep into the ocean but must come up to the surface for air. A whale will blow out the old air from its lungs through the blowholes. The air mixes with drops of water as the whale blows all the old air out and fills his lungs full of fresh air. The spray of air and drops of water shooting up is called spouting.

Whales live in groups called herds. Whales communicate with each other by making sounds such as clicks and squeaks called phonations. Whales can listen through a little ear hole on each side of their heads.

Whales are enormous and very interesting sea animals.



## Spouting Off About Whales

1. Explain three ways that a whale and a fish are different.

---

---

---

---

---

2. Describe blubber and how it helps the whale.

---

---

---

3. What happens to the temperature inside of a whale's body in cold water? \_\_\_\_\_

---

4. Describe how whales breathe through blowholes.

---

---

---

---

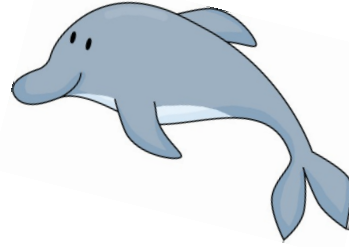
5. What are phonations? \_\_\_\_\_

---

6. How do whales hear the phonations? \_\_\_\_\_

---

# Diving with Dolphin Facts



Dolphins are one of the best-loved animals of the sea. Dolphins are members of the whale family and are warm-blooded mammals. Just like the whale, the dolphin babies are born alive.

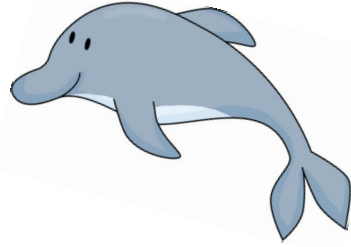
Dolphins have a long and pointed nose that is called a snout, teeth that are shaped like a cone, and a body shaped like a torpedo. The shape of their body helps them to move quickly and easily through the water. Dolphins have a dorsal fin on their back and flippers at their side, both help the dolphin balance when swimming. Dolphins have strong tail fins called flukes. The powerful flukes pushes the dolphin through the water. A dolphin's skin is smooth and has a layer of fat, or blubber, under their skin. The blubber keeps the dolphin warm in the water.

Did you know that sometimes dolphins will take a nap? They nap just below the surface of the water. When he needs a breath while napping he just flips his tail and up to the surface he comes to grab a puff of air. The dolphin breathes through a blowhole at the top of its head. They need to come up to the surface to breathe once or twice a minute.

Dolphins travel together in groups of 100 to 1000; these groups are called schools. They play and hunt for food together. Dolphins are very smart and one of the most intelligent animals according to scientists. Dolphins are able to communicate by making sounds such as clicks, barks, and whistles through air-filled sacs next to their blowhole. They also slap their flukes on the surface of the water as another method of communication.

Dolphins are interesting, entertaining, and friendly animals. They are easily trained to perform in shows and can be taught to jump through a hoop, play with a ball, or catch objects. Dolphins are fun to watch!

# Diving with Dolphin Facts



1. Describe the physical appearance of a dolphin.

---

---

---

2. What does the dorsal fin and flippers do for a dolphin?

---

---

3. Explain how a dolphin breathes while taking a nap.

---

---

---

4. What do dolphins do when traveling in schools?

---

---

5. List two ways that a dolphin communicates.

---

---

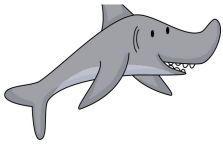
---

---

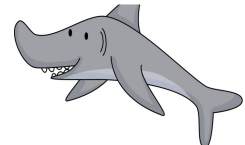
6. What activities can a dolphin be trained to perform?

---

---



## Swimming with the Sharks



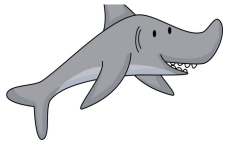
SHARK! Sharks are found all over the world. They live in cold water or warm water, in deep water or shallow water. Whenever a shark attacks a person it will make the news but sharks do not attack very often. Scientists have been studying sharks for a long time and are still not sure why sharks attack moving objects.

The shark is a fish, a meat-eating fish but it is different from most fish in many ways. Most fish have a swim bladder that keeps them from sinking but a shark does not have a swim bladder. Most sharks have to keep swimming all the time to keep from sinking. Just like fish, a shark breathes through its gills. Fish pump water over their gills to get oxygen but sharks cannot do this. A shark swims with its mouth open, water flows into its mouth, and then goes out the gills which are slits on the side of its head. Most sharks have to keep swimming in order to breathe. Fish lay eggs but the eggs of most sharks hatch inside the mother's body. The baby sharks are called pups and are born alive. Pups have to take care of themselves as soon as they are born because their parents do not care for them and may even eat them.

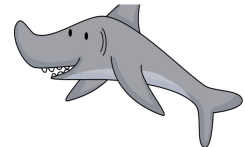
The shark has rough skin that is covered with scales. A shark does not have any bones. Its skeleton is made of cartilage which is tough and elastic. The shark has huge jaws and very sharp teeth. The teeth of a shark grow in several rows and whenever a shark loses a tooth another will move up to replace it.

The shark is an excellent swimmer and can move quickly through the water. They have caudal fins, their strong tails, which provides the power needed to move swiftly and their side fins, the pectoral, give them balance. The dorsal fin on its back is the pointed fin that you often see peeking through the water warning you a shark is near!

Sharks are not very smart and do not see well but they have a keen sense of smell and they hear well. The sense of smell and hearing and their swimming make them very good hunters.



## Swimming with the Sharks



1. Explain the differences between a shark and a fish.

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why is a shark pup in danger as soon as it is born?

---

---

3. Describe why you would never see a shark without teeth.

---

---

4. Why is the shark an excellent swimmer?

---

---

5. What is the scariest part of the shark's body and why do you think so? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

6. Describe why sharks are very good hunters.

---

---

---