



ALL ABOUT DOLPHINS

Splash, leap, and play with the
smartest swimmers in the sea!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE DOLPHINS!

Whoosh! A shiny gray shape leaps out of the water—it's a dolphin! **Dolphins** are playful, friendly animals that live in oceans and rivers.





WHAT DOLPHINS ARE LIKE

Dolphins are **mammals**, not fish. They breathe air through a **blowhole** on top of their heads and must come up to the surface to breathe. Dolphins have smooth, rubbery skin, fins for steering, and a tail called a **fluke** that helps them swim fast.





WHERE DOLPHINS LIVE

Dolphins live in oceans all around the world, and many live in warm water while some live in **rivers**. They swim near the **coast**, in **bays**, and sometimes far out at sea, and some dolphins live in salty water while others live in fresh water.

FROM CALF TO ADULT

A baby dolphin is called a **calf**. It is born underwater and swims to the surface to take its first breath. The mother dolphin stays close to her calf, feeding it milk and teaching it how to swim and hunt.



HOW DOLPHINS COMMUNICATE

Dolphins “talk” using clicks, **whistles**, and body movements. Each dolphin has its own special whistle! They use sounds to stay in touch, find food, and warn others of danger.



DINNERTIME FOR DOLPHINS

Dolphins are **carnivores**, which means they eat meat. They eat fish, squid, and sometimes small crustaceans. Dolphins work together to herd fish into a group and take turns catching them.





FAMILY LIFE IN THE POD

Dolphins live in groups called **Pods**. Pods can be small, with just a few dolphins, or large, with hundreds! They help each other find food, protect calves, and play games together.





KEEPING SAFE IN THE SEA

Dolphins have few enemies, but they stay alert for sharks and orcas. They use speed, teamwork, and smarts to keep safe. Sometimes they even protect other animals from danger!

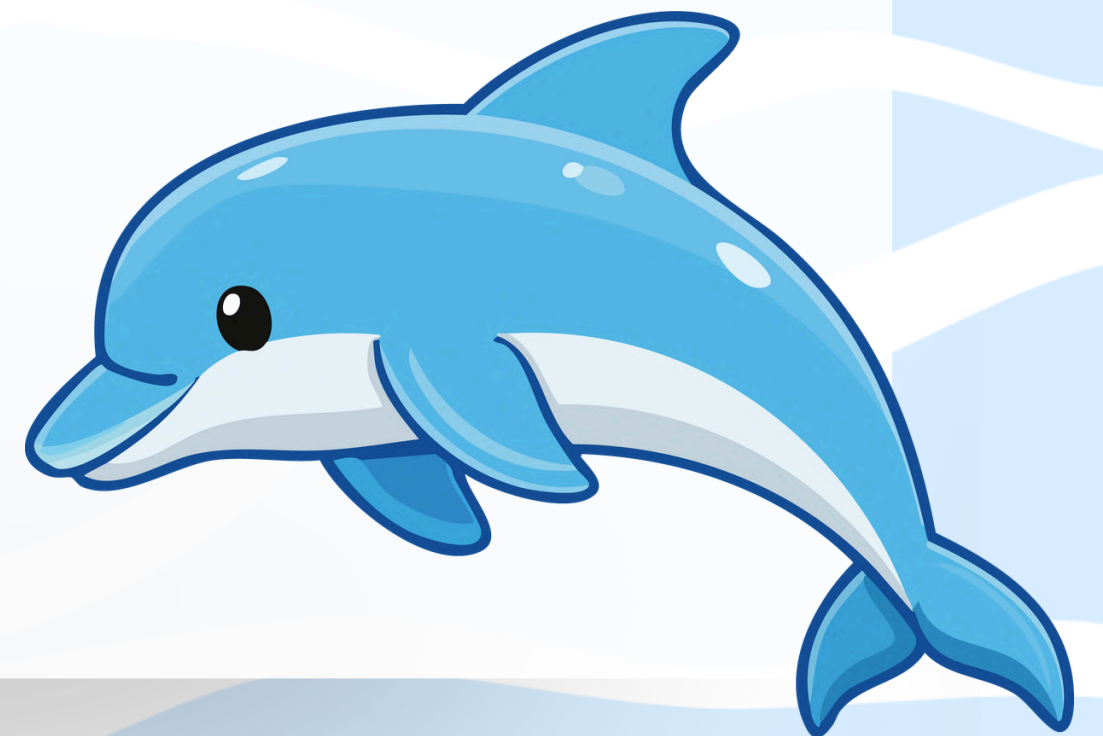
A close-up photograph of a dolphin leaping from the water. The dolphin is captured mid-air, with its body arched and its tail fluke visible at the bottom left. The water is a deep blue with white foam and splashes around the dolphin's body. The dolphin's skin is a smooth, light grey color, and its eye is dark and visible. The background is a blurred expanse of blue water.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dolphins can swim up to 40 kilometers (25 miles) per hour!
- They can hold their breath for about 10 minutes.
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open –half their brain rests while the other stays awake to breathe!

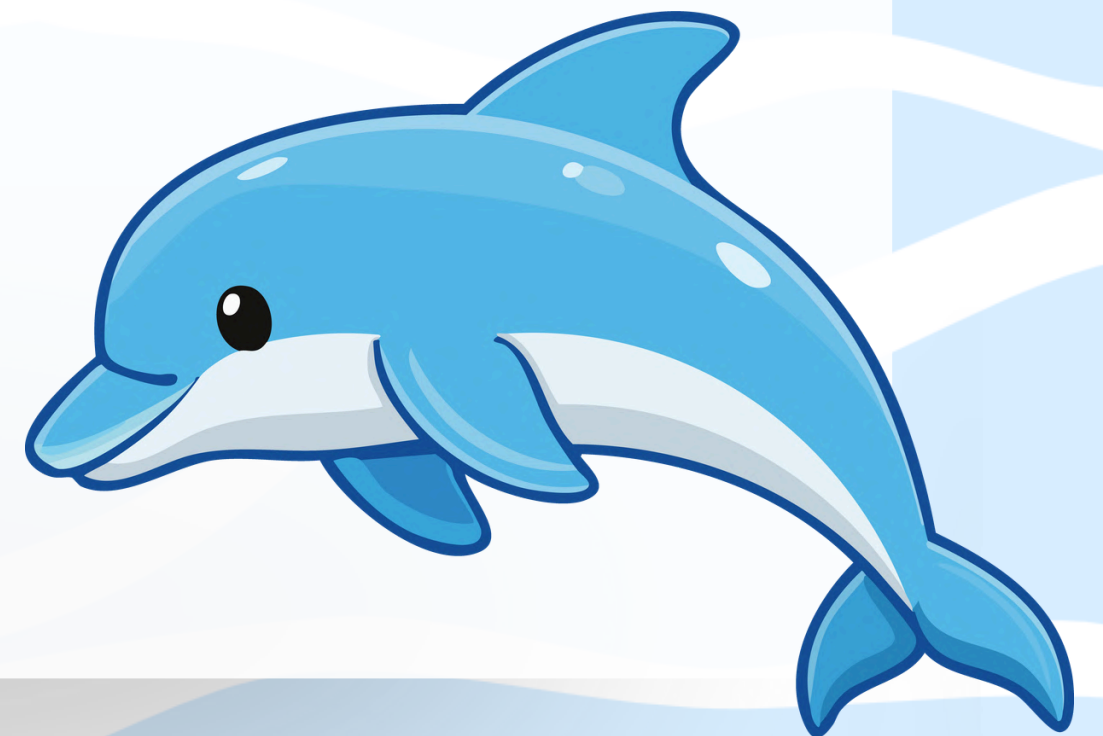
QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Dolphins are fish.
2. (True or False) Dolphins breathe through a blowhole.
3. (True or False) Dolphins live in groups called pods.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Dolphins breathe air through a blowhole.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Dolphins are the happiest animals in the ocean.
6. How do dolphins communicate?
7. Where do dolphins live?
8. What do dolphins eat?
9. How do dolphins help each other?
10. Why do dolphins come to the surface?



ANSWERS

1. False. Dolphins are mammals, not fish.
2. True. Dolphins breathe air through a blowhole.
3. True. Dolphins live in family groups called pods.
4. Fact. Dolphins breathe air through a blowhole on top of their heads.
5. Opinion. "Dolphins are the happiest animals in the ocean" is what someone thinks or feels.
6. They use clicks, whistles, and movements to talk.
7. They live in warm oceans and some rivers.
8. They eat fish, squid, and other sea creatures.
9. They work together to hunt, protect, and play.
10. They come up to breathe air through their blowhole.



GLOSSARY

Bay – a part of the ocean that curves into the land

Blowhole – the opening on top of a dolphin's head used for breathing

Calf – a baby dolphin

Carnivore – an animal that eats meat

Coast – the place where the land meets the ocean

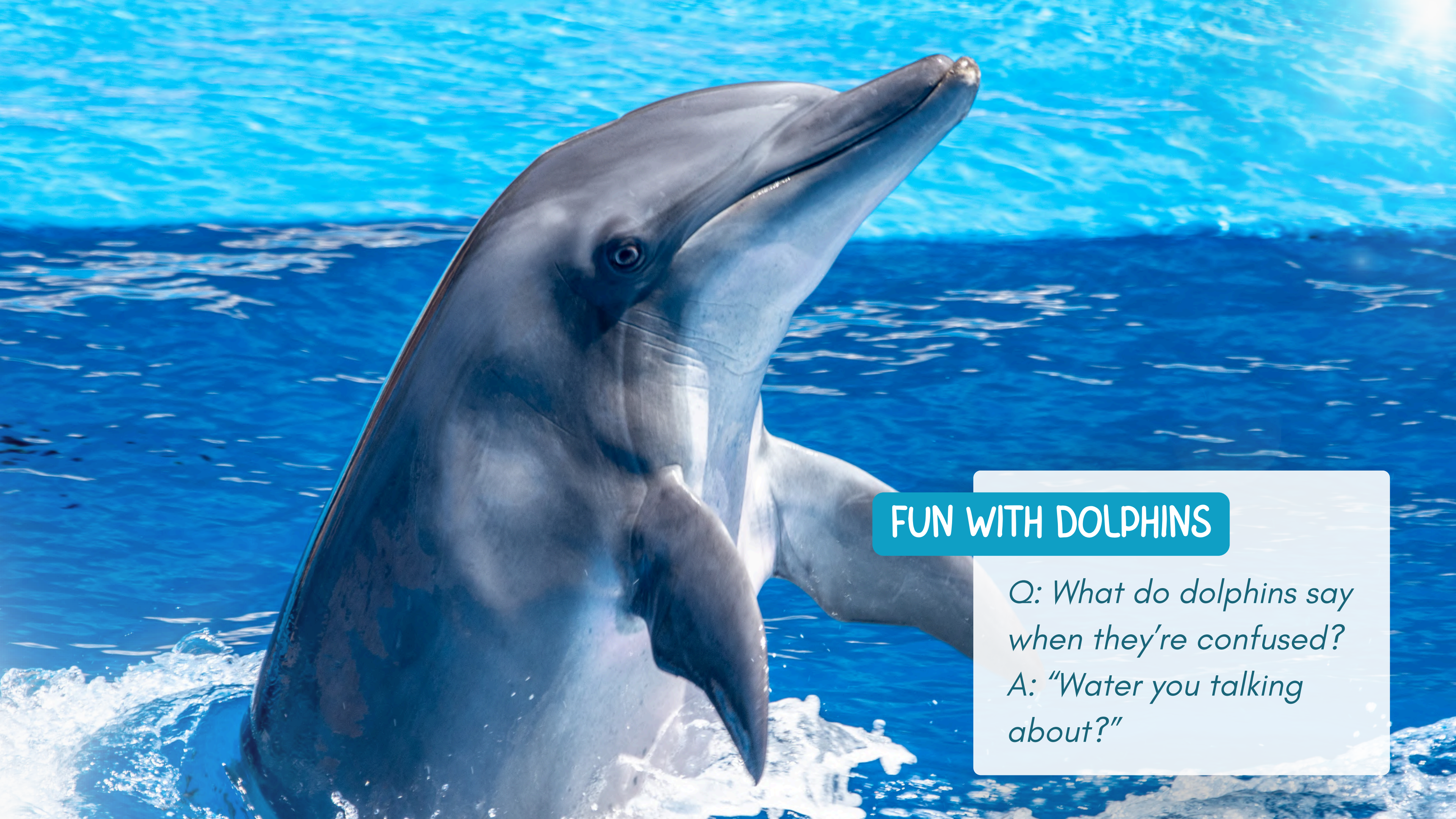
Fluke – the flat tail of a dolphin used for swimming

Mammal – a warm-blooded animal that breathes air and feeds its babies milk

Pod – a group of dolphins that live and travel together

River – a long body of moving water that flows across the land

Whistle – a high sound dolphins make to talk to each other



FUN WITH DOLPHINS

Q: What do dolphins say when they're confused?

A: "Water you talking about?"