

Dolphins



Habitat

A dolphin lives underwater and can travel all over the world. Some dolphins live in rivers and some live in oceans.

What do they look like?

Dolphins are mammals but they have very little hair so they are able to swim fast underwater. Dolphins have:

- a beak. This is what their long pointed mouth is called.
- A melon. This is the round bit at the top of a dolphin's head.
- a fin. This is the pointed triangle on top of their back.
- two flippers. In other animals we called these arms but dolphins use their flippers to swim.
- A flukes. This is what a dolphin's tail is called.
- A blowhole. This is where a dolphin breathes air through.



Diet

Dolphins are carnivores. They mainly eat fish but will also eat squid and crabs.

Family groups

Dolphins normally live in groups of around 15 but some groups have more than 1000 dolphins in! The dolphins in a group hunt prey together, attack predators together and look after sick members of the group which other animals don't normally do.

Who hunts them?

Dolphins are hunted by many types of sharks including great white sharks, tiger sharks and bull sharks. They are also eaten by killer whales. To defend themselves dolphins will work as a group using their flukes to hit predators and their beaks to stab predators.

Many dolphins are also killed each year by getting tangled up in fishing nets by accident.

Did you know dolphins are one of the most intelligent animals? They communicate with each other over long distances by whistling and clicking.