



Amazing Dolphins

Part 1

Teacher Reads People find dolphins fascinating. So do the scientists who study them. Dolphins live in water like fish, but they breathe air like animals on land. The more we learn about dolphins, the more we realize how awesome they are!

Many people have seen dolphins on TV or in films.

10 People have seen them leap out of the surging sea or from a
23 large pool. We know many things about dolphins, but we are
34 trying to discover more about these smart animals.

42 Some people think dolphins look like sharks because
50 they are **both** gray and live in water. But there are many
62 differences between the two animals. For one thing, a
71 dolphin is a mammal, an animal that breathes **air** and feeds
82 milk to its **young**. Sharks are fish and do not breathe air
94 or feed milk to their young. Also, a shark's tail sweeps side
106 to side, and a dolphin's tail goes up and down. In addition,
118 dolphins like being around other dolphins, while many
126 sharks prefer swimming alone.

130 How smart are dolphins? Experts have found that they
139 are very smart! In fact, dolphins are one of the few kinds of
152 animals that can recognize their own reflections.

Part 2

Teacher Reads Read on to find out how dolphins learn to perform tricks.

159 Dolphins are playful and lively, so dolphin trainers
167 teach them tricks that seem like play. Each time the dolphin
178 performs a trick like leaping high out of the water, the trainer
190 gives the dolphin a treat as a **reward**. That treat is a fish!
203 That's how trainers teach dolphins to do new things. Soon,
213 the dolphin knows what to do to get fish. But there may be
226 times when a dolphin does not want to do a trick. A trainer
239 will try different things to get the dolphin to change its mind.



Part 3

Teacher Reads Technology is also being used to teach dolphins.

251 There is another excellent way to teach dolphins—
259 through the use of **computers**. Dolphins talk to each other
269 by making clicks and other sounds that travel through the
279 water. A computer can change a trainer’s voice into dolphin
289 clicks and sounds. The trainer can then use the computer to
300 talk to the dolphins and tell them what to do. The sounds
312 travel through the water to the dolphins.

319 Dolphins also have a strong sense of **hearing**. They can
329 detect sounds at a long range. If a trainer drops something
340 small into the water that the dolphin cannot see, the dolphin
351 can swim right over to it.

357 Some of the best things about dolphins are how much
367 they like to meet people and how gentle they are. Sometimes
378 a dolphin will even let a swimmer hold on to its fin and give
392 the swimmer a ride. But the swimmer should first make sure
403 it’s a dolphin and not a shark! [Learn More](#)

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