

How Dolphins Talk

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 Dolphins live in groups called pods, and they are some of the chattiest animals in the sea. Dolphins communicate, or share messages, with sounds, movements, and touch.
- 2 Every dolphin has a whistle of its own. Scientists call it a signature whistle, and it works a lot like a name. A young dolphin makes up its whistle in the first months of its life. When a mother and her calf get separated, they call back and forth with their whistles until they find each other.
- 3 Dolphins make other sounds to show how they feel. An excited dolphin may squeak and squawk in quick bursts. An angry dolphin may snap its jaws shut with a loud clap. That sharp sound warns other dolphins to back away.
- 4 Dolphins send messages with their bodies too. A dolphin may slap its tail hard on the surface of the water. The loud smack can be heard from far away. Dolphins also leap high into the air and land with a great splash that others in the pod can hear.
- 5 Touch is another way dolphins communicate. Dolphins that are friends often swim side by side and rub each other with their flippers. A mother keeps her calf close and nudges it gently with her snout. These gentle touches help the dolphins in a pod stay close to one another.



How Dolphins Talk: Questions

Go back to the text to find your proof. Underline it in the color shown.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☐ fishing boats
- ☐ how dolphins communicate
- ☐ ocean waves

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?



- ☐ A dolphin may slap its tail on the water.
- ☐ Dolphins live in groups called pods.
- ☐ Dolphins communicate, or share messages, with sounds, movements, and touch.

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?



- ☐ Every dolphin has a whistle of its own.
- ☐ A baby dolphin is called a calf.
- ☐ Scientists study animals.

4. Write two details from paragraph 4 that tell more about its main idea.



5. What is paragraph 5 mostly about?



6. Which detail does NOT belong in this text?

- ☐ A dolphin may slap its tail on the water.
- ☐ Sea stars usually have five arms.
- ☐ Each dolphin has a whistle of its own.

How Dolphins Talk: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☐ fishing boats
- ☒ **how dolphins communicate**
- ☐ ocean waves

Proof The topic is named in the title and comes up in every paragraph.

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?

red

- ☐ A dolphin may slap its tail on the water.
- ☐ Dolphins live in groups called pods.
- ☒ **Dolphins communicate, or share messages, with sounds, movements, and touch.**

Proof Paragraph 1: "Dolphins communicate, or share messages, with sounds, movements, and touch."

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

orange

- ☒ **Every dolphin has a whistle of its own.**
- ☐ A baby dolphin is called a calf.
- ☐ Scientists study animals.

Proof Paragraph 2: "Every dolphin has a whistle of its own."

4. Write two details from paragraph 4 that tell more about its main idea.

yellow

A dolphin may slap its tail hard on the water. Dolphins leap into the air and land with a great splash.

5. What is paragraph 5 mostly about?

green

How dolphins use touch to communicate and stay close.

6. Which detail does NOT belong in this text?

- ☐ A dolphin may slap its tail on the water.
- ☒ **Sea stars usually have five arms.**
- ☐ Each dolphin has a whistle of its own.

Proof It is not about the topic of the text.