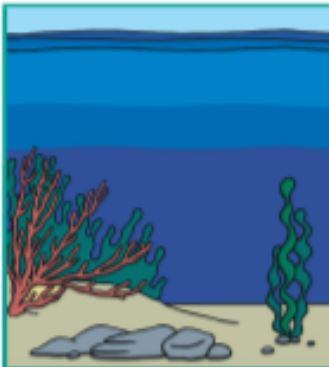


Dolphins



What do dolphins look like?

A dolphin is a sea animal but they are mammals, not fish. They have two fins on their sides and a triangle shaped fin on their back that helps them to swim fast. They also have smooth, rubbery skin which can be a mix of black, white and gray in colour. A bottlenose dolphin is large with a dark grey back and a light gray belly with a short beak that can look like they are smiling. Dolphins have fat under the skin to keep them warm in the harsh, cold seas. They breathe through a single nostril on the top of their head called a blowhole.



Where do dolphins live?

Dolphins live in the world's seas and in rivers too. They live together in groups called 'pods'. Some dolphin pods like to live where the land meets the sea, some live out at sea and some live in rivers or lakes.



What do dolphins do?

Dolphins can jump out of the water as high as 4.9 metres, flipping over to land on their backs, bellies or sides. This is called 'breach'. They breach to let other dolphins know about food nearby.





What do dolphins eat?

Bottlenose dolphins hunt their prey by swimming around in big circles near fish, beating their tails down hard to stir up the seafloor making the water cloudy. The dolphins swim around, making the circle smaller and smaller, trapping the fish like a net. As the fish jump out, the other dolphins catch them in their mouth.

