



All About Dolphins

Study Guide

STUDENT NAME: _____

As you watch the presentation *All About Dolphins*, answer the following questions. Don't worry about any "wrong" answers. If you don't know, just take your best educated guess and you will get the correct information later. There is nothing wrong with being incorrect as long as you correct your answer if needed.

1. Currently, how many species of dolphins are known?
Your Guess: _____ Actual: _____
2. Are dolphins FISH or MAMMALS? Give three reasons for your answer:
Dolphins are _____ because
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
3. What are FIVE characteristics of mammals?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

4. Why do you think dolphins lack hair?

5. What is the function of hair? Since dolphins don't have hair, what do they have to perform this function instead of hair?

6. Explain two ways that NOT having hairs is an advantage for dolphins:
 - 1.
 - 2.

7. Why are dolphins born with hair only to have it drop off?

8. What does the ontogeny of dolphins tell us about their evolutionary history? Which animal is thought to be the closest relative to dolphins and whales?

9. Explain how having a blowhole on top of their heads helps dolphins live a completely aquatic lifestyle.

10. Explain, briefly, how a dolphin sleeps and why they can't sleep like we do.

11. Whales are divided into two groups: Baleen Whales and, the Toothed Whales

Differences between the Baleen and Toothed Whales

characteristic	BALEEN	TOOTHED
Inside the mouth		
Number of blowholes		
Body Size		
Social Structure		

11. What are a dolphin's teeth used for?

12. Explain three advantages of living in a pod?

13. Choose one type of dolphin behavior and explain it.

14. What are two predators of dolphins?

15. Explain how dolphins interact with humans, in the ocean.

16. Explain how some people interact with dolphins, in the ocean.

17. Briefly describe what you think a day in the life of a dolphin, living in the ocean is like.

18. Write your own definition for the word "captive". How do you think that dolphins end up in marine parks?

19. Briefly describe what you think a day in the life of a dolphin that is in a captive facility, a captive facility being a place where the dolphin lives in a tank.

20. Do you think that humans are a danger to dolphins? Why or why not?