

Bottlenose Dolphins

Is a bottlenose dolphin a fish? No! There are many differences between fish and a bottlenose dolphin.

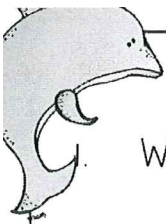
A bottlenose dolphin is not hard to miss. They can be from seven to thirteen feet long. They may slightly vary in appearance. They look differently based on where they spend most of their time. Male dolphins are bigger and heavier than females. Bottlenose dolphins have what looks like a bottle for a nose. They have a fin on the top of their bodies. They have two front flippers. They help them swim. They have a large flipper for a tail. This helps push them in the water. Bottlenose dolphins do not have scales. They have a smooth skin that helps them move quickly in the water.

Dolphins are predators and carnivores. They search and hunt for meat. They eat a large amount of different kinds of fish. They eat squid and shrimp. Some dolphins dive over a thousand feet for deep sea fish.

Bottlenose dolphins are found in every ocean except the Arctic. They swim in coastal waters in addition to open ocean waters. There are two types of bottlenose dolphin. The coastal type surrounds itself with shallow waters along the coast that are warm. It has a smaller body than the offshore bottlenose dolphin. Coastal bottlenose dolphins can move more quickly than the offshore bottlenose dolphins. Offshore bottlenose dolphins like deeper waters that are cooler. Its blood is better suited for deep diving. They dive deep for food. It has a larger body to help it against predators of the sea.

Dolphins communicate by making clicking sounds. They can also make buzzing noises. They use echolocation to find fish. They make a sound to see if the sound bounces off of a potential meal. The dolphin will know how close it is and can attack it. Bottlenose dolphins communicate with each other by making a unique sound. The sound is unique to that particular bottlenose dolphin.

Bottlenose dolphins are mammals. They do not lay eggs. They give birth to their babies. They provide them with milk. Baby bottlenose dolphins are called calves. They stay with their mother three to six years.



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1. What could be another good title of this passage?

2. Why did the author write this passage?

3. What does a bottlenose dolphin eat?

4. What do you think the words predator and carnivore mean?

5. Using text evidence, if you were to explain what a dolphin looks like to someone who cannot see, how would you describe one?

6. Using context clues, define echolocation.

7. Where could I NOT find a bottlenose dolphin?

8. How long does a bottlenose calf spend with its mother?

9. Where do bottlenose dolphins get their name?

10. What makes a bottlenose dolphin a mammal?

11. How do bottlenose dolphins communicate?

12. If you were a dolphin, would you rather live in the coastal waters or out in the open ocean? Explain why.