Name						

Dolphins - Main Idea

Directions: Write the letter of the main idea in the blank.

Optional: In addition, the main idea may be circled or highlighted. Supporting details may be underlined.

1			

Dolphins are curious and sometimes playful around people. Dolphins interact with people. They will often swim around a boat and play or swim in the boat's wake. They are capable of swimming at about 18 miles per hour. Having followed a fishing boat, they have been known to steal a fish right off of the line before the fisherman can reel it in. Dolphins **communicate** by making whistling and clicking noises with their blowholes. They have good eyesight and hearing. They use **echolocation** to find objects in the water. Echolocation helps them determine the distance, size, and shape of objects in the water. They will work with other dolphins to surround and trap a school of fish. Then, they will take turns swimming through the school to catch the fish. Dolphins are thought to be very **intelligent** and have been trained to work with people in the military and entertainment areas.

- a. Dolphins use echolocation.
- c. Dolphins hear and see well.

- b. Dolphins make noises to communicate.
- d. Dolphins interact with people.

2.

Dolphins are **mammals** belonging to a larger group of porpoises that include the orca and beluga whales. There are many different **species** of dolphins swimming mostly in the seas near continents. However, a few species may be found in some rivers. The species vary in size from 4 to 30 feet in length. Dolphins have teeth and are **carnivorous**, eating mostly squid and fish. They are social creatures, living in pods of up to twelve dolphins. Dolphins do not necessarily stay with the same pod, but can change pods at will. They have been seen showing behavior that would indicate strong bonds between dolphins and perhaps even **altruistic** or caring behavior. For instance, dolphins have been known to stay with an ill or injured dolphin, even pushing it to the surface to breathe. They have also been seen protecting swimmers from sharks by circling swimmers and by charging the sharks to make them leave.

- a. Dolphins swim in shallow seas.
- b. Dolphin species are of different sizes.

c. Dolphins are carnivorous.

d. Dolphins are social, living and traveling in pods.



Name			

Whales - Main Idea

Directions: Write the letter of the main idea in the blank.

Optional: In addition, the main idea may be circled or highlighted. Supporting details may be underlined.

2		
4		
J.		

Whales are large, intelligent mammals that live their entire lives in water. They are the only mammals that have adapted to living in the open oceans. There are all sizes and types of whales. The dwarf sperm whale is only about 8.5 feet long, while the blue whale is about 94 feet long. The blue whale's length is like the height of a nine story building. Some whales have teeth and hunt for fish, squid, and other marine mammals, swallowing them whole. Some whales do not have teeth, but use a comb-like structure in the mouth called a baleen to strain krill (shrimp-like creatures) from the ocean waters. All whales are warm-blooded, nurse their young, have lungs, and breathe air through a blowhole on the top of their head.

a. Whales are huge.

b. Whales are mammals that live in the oceans.

c. Whales breathe air.

d. Whales eat without chewing.

.....



4.

Some whales do not have teeth. The whales are filter feeders and eat the small organisms that are caught on the baleen. The baleen is a plate or comb-like structure in the mouth with coarse broom-like bristles. Whales will pull in seawater through their mouths and push the water out against the baleen. The baleen will strain or catch the tiny shrimp-like krill. The blue whale, for example, will eat up to 4 tons or 8,000 pounds of krill, schools of small fish, and even plankton each day, all without teeth.

- a. Whales push seawater through their mouths.
- b. Whales eat all day long.

c. Some whales are filter feeders.

d. Whales eat tons of food.

Name_____



Giraffes - Main Idea

Directions: Write the letter of the main idea in the blank.

Optional: In addition, the main idea may be circled or highlighted. Supporting details may be underlined.

5	
Giraffes are 'fast walkers' adapted for living in the savannas	of Africa. When they stand still, their coloring and
spots camouflage them against the grasses. Their light and	dark fur will blend in with the shadows and the light.
They have an 18 inch, tough, bluish-purple tongue covered in	n hair that allows them to eat the leaves from the
thorny Acacia tree. Giraffes have four stomachs that help in	digestion of the 75 pounds of vegetation that they eat
each day. They are most vulnerable to predators when they	lower their heads to drink. They can run about 35
miles per hour and can kick karate style if necessary when pe	ursued.
a. Giraffes are adapted for living in African savannas.	b. It's dangerous for giraffes to drink.
c. Giraffes can reach leaves in the trees.	d. Giraffes have lots of stomachs.

Giraffes are really tall. They are, in fact, the tallest animals on land. All four of a giraffe's legs will grow to be six feet long. A giraffe is tall enough to look into a second story window without a problem. The giraffe's neck weights 600 pounds, but has the same number of **vertebrate** as humans. The leaves of the Acacia tree, which contain a lot of water, are the giraffes' favorite food. However, when a giraffe does get thirsty, it can drink 10 gallons of water a day. It is not easy to bend down for water when you are the tallest animal on land.

- a. Giraffes are the tallest animals on land.
- c. Giraffes find it difficult to drink.

- b. Giraffes can drink 10 gallons of water a day.
- d. Giraffes eat leaves.