

# Dolphin Facts

By Zehnya Bruckert



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Early Non-Fiction Series

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The most common dolphin is the oceanic dolphin. The oceanic dolphin's scientific name is *Delphinidae*. This is where the name Dolphin comes from.





Most people think pink dolphins don't exist but they do. They live in the Amazon and Orinoco rivers and they eat piranhas. If you ever go swimming there and see one they are very friendly (but watch out for the piranhas!)



Dolphin are very smart and  
marine parks often teach  
dolphins to do tricks and perform  
in shows.



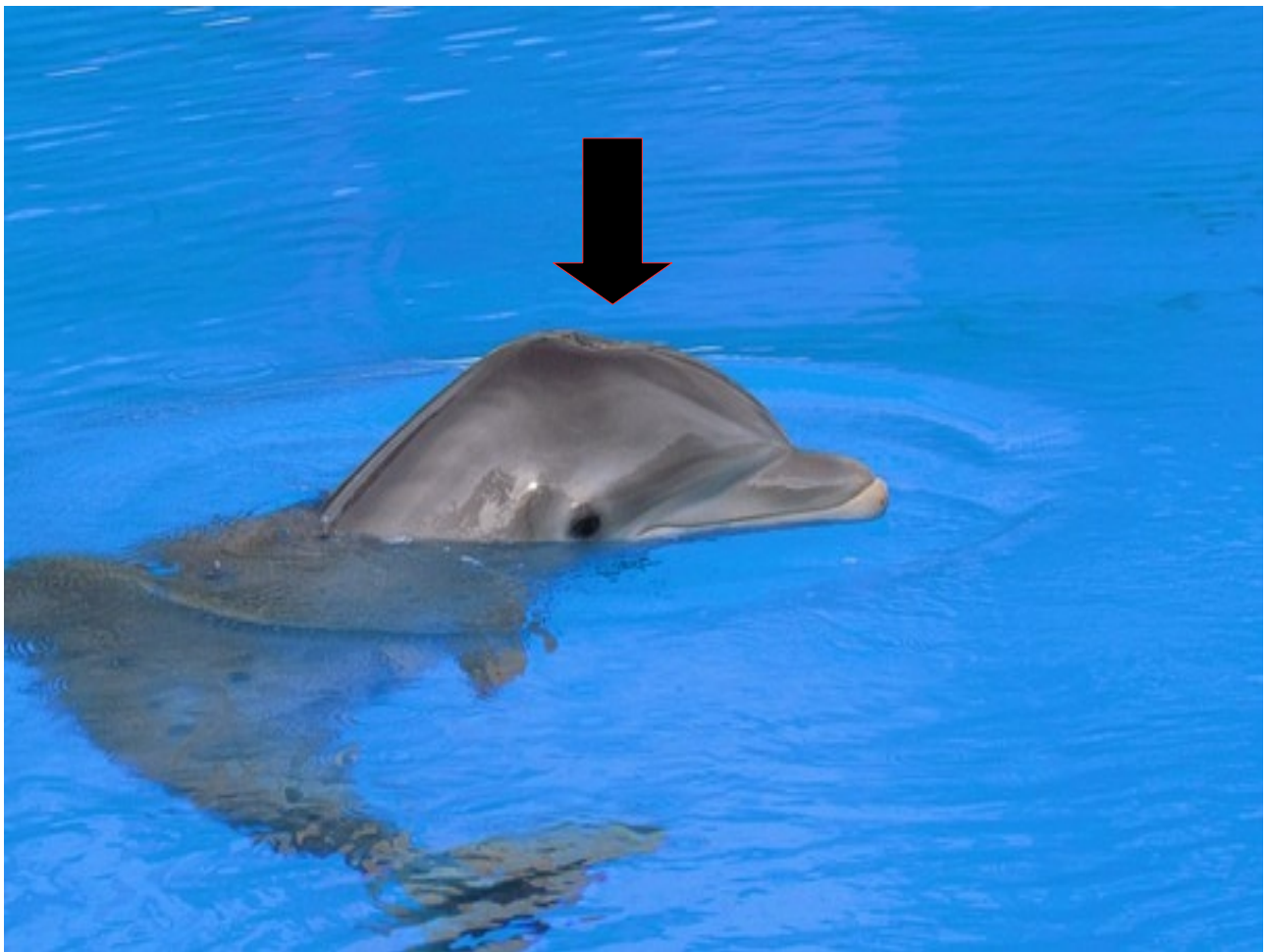
Killer whales are also part of the dolphin family, but dolphins don't eat seals, killer whales do. Killer whales are very cute but don't go too close to them!





Dolphin breathe through a hole  
close to the dorsal fin.

It is said that if you rub a  
dolphins tail and make a wish it  
will come true.



Bottle nosed dolphins are called bottle nosed because their nose is shaped like a bottle. They can swim up to 260m below the surface of the ocean.







There's nearly 40 species of dolphin swimming the waters of the world. Wow! Dolphins are part of the family of toothed whales that includes orcas and pilot whale.



A 260 pound dolphin eats about 33 pounds of fish a day.

Dolphins eat through their mouths and breathe through their blowholes. This prevents the dolphin from sucking up water into the lungs when hunting, reducing the risk of drowning.





Dolphins are very social, living in groups that hunt and even play together. Large pods of dolphins can have 1,000 members or more.





# Dolphin Taxonomy

(source: wikipedia)

•Parvorder Odontoceti, toothed whales

- Family [Platanistidae](#)
  - [Ganges and Indus river dolphin](#), *Platanista gangetica* with two subspecies
  - [Ganges river dolphin](#) (or Susu), *Platanista gangetica gangetica*
  - [Indus river dolphin](#) (or Bhulan), *Platanista gangetica minor*
- Family [Iniidae](#)
  - [Amazon river dolphin](#) (or Boto), *Inia geoffrensis*
  - [Orinoco river dolphin](#) (the [Orinoco](#) subspecies), *Inia geoffrensis humboldtiana*
  - [Araguaian river dolphin](#) (Araguaian boto), *Inia Araguaiaensis*
  - [Bolivian river dolphin](#), *Inia boliviensis*
- Family [Lipotidae](#)
  - [Baiji](#) (or Chinese river dolphin), *Lipotes vexillifer* (possibly extinct, since December 2006)
- Family [Pontoporiidae](#)
  - [La Plata dolphin](#) (or Franciscana), *Pontoporia blainvillei*
- Family [Delphinidae](#), [oceanic dolphins](#)
  - Genus [Delphinus](#)
    - [Long-beaked common dolphin](#), *Delphinus capensis*
    - [Short-beaked common dolphin](#), *Delphinus delphis*
  - Genus [Tursiops](#)
    - [Common bottlenose dolphin](#), *Tursiops truncatus*
    - [Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin](#), *Tursiops aduncus*
    - [Burrnan dolphin](#), *Tursiops australis*, a newly discovered species from the sea around [Melbourne](#) in September 2011.<sup>[14]</sup>
  - Genus [Lissodelphis](#)
    - [Northern right whale dolphin](#), *Lissodelphis borealis*
    - [Southern right whale dolphin](#), *Lissodelphis peronii*
  - Genus [Sotalia](#)
    - [Tucuxi](#), *Sotalia fluviatilis*
    - [Costero](#), *Sotalia guianensis*
  - Genus [Sousa](#)
    - [Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin](#), *Sousa chinensis*
    - [Chinese white dolphin](#), *Sousa chinensis chinensis*
    - [Atlantic humpback dolphin](#), *Sousa teuszii*
  - Genus [Stenella](#)
    - [Atlantic spotted dolphin](#), *Stenella frontalis*
    - [Clymene dolphin](#), *Stenella clymene*
    - [Pantropical spotted dolphin](#), *Stenella attenuata*
    - [Spinner dolphin](#), *Stenella longirostris*
    - [Striped dolphin](#), *Stenella coeruleoalba*
  - Genus [Steno](#)
    - [Rough-toothed dolphin](#), *Steno bredanensis*
  - Genus [Cephalorhynchus](#)
    - [Chilean dolphin](#), *Cephalorhynchus eutropia*

- Commerson's dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus commersonii*
- Haviside's dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus heavisidii*
- Hector's dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus hectori*
- Genus *Grampus*
  - Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus*
- Genus *Lagenodelphis*
  - Fraser's dolphin, *Lagenodelphis hosei*
- Genus *Lagenorhynchus*
  - Atlantic white-sided dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus acutus*
  - Dusky dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*
  - Hourglass dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus cruciger*
  - Pacific white-sided dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*
  - Peale's dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus australis*
  - White-beaked dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*
- Genus *Orcaella*
  - Australian snubfin dolphin, *Orcaella heinsohni*
  - Irrawaddy dolphin, *Orcaella brevirostris*
- Genus *Peponocephala*
  - Melon-headed whale, *Peponocephala electra*
- Genus *Orcinus*
  - Killer whale (Orca), *Orcinus orca*
- Genus *Feresa*
  - Pygmy killer whale, *Feresa attenuata*
- Genus *Pseudorca*
  - False killer whale, *Pseudorca crassidens*
- Genus *Globicephala*
  - Long-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala melas*
  - Short-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala macrorhynchus*
- Genus †*Australodelphis*
- †*Australodelphis mirus*

Six species in the family Delphinidae are commonly called "whales", but genetically are dolphins. They are sometimes called *blackfish*.

- Melon-headed whale, *Peponocephala electra*
- Killer whale (Orca), *Orcinus orca*
- Pygmy killer whale, *Feresa attenuata*
- False killer whale, *Pseudorca crassidens*
- Long-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala melas*
- Short-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala macrorhynchus*



Common dolphin



Bottlenose dolphin



Spotted dolphin



Atlantic spotted dolphin



Commerson's dolphin



Dusky dolphin



Killer whale



Amazon river dolphin



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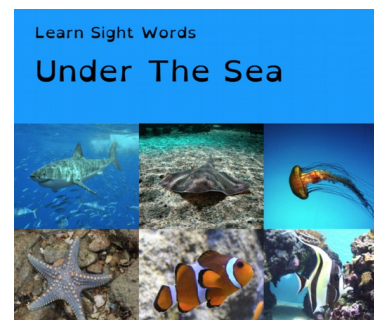
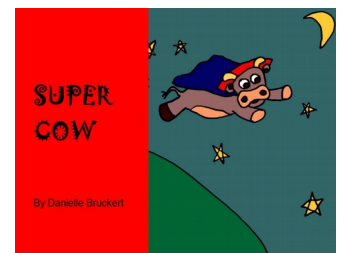
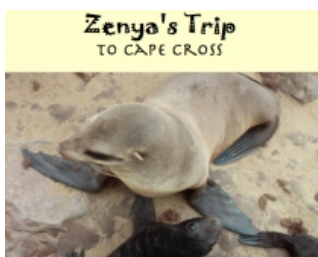
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