



BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS

by Oscar Cadejo



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



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Introducing Dolphins

The gray animal shoots up out of the water and spins several times. Then it splashes down into the ocean's surf. It looks and moves like a fish, but it is not a fish. It is a dolphin.

 No one knows why the dolphin jumps and spins out of the water.

Dolphins are mammals, just like cats, dogs, and humans. And dolphins breathe air just like humans.

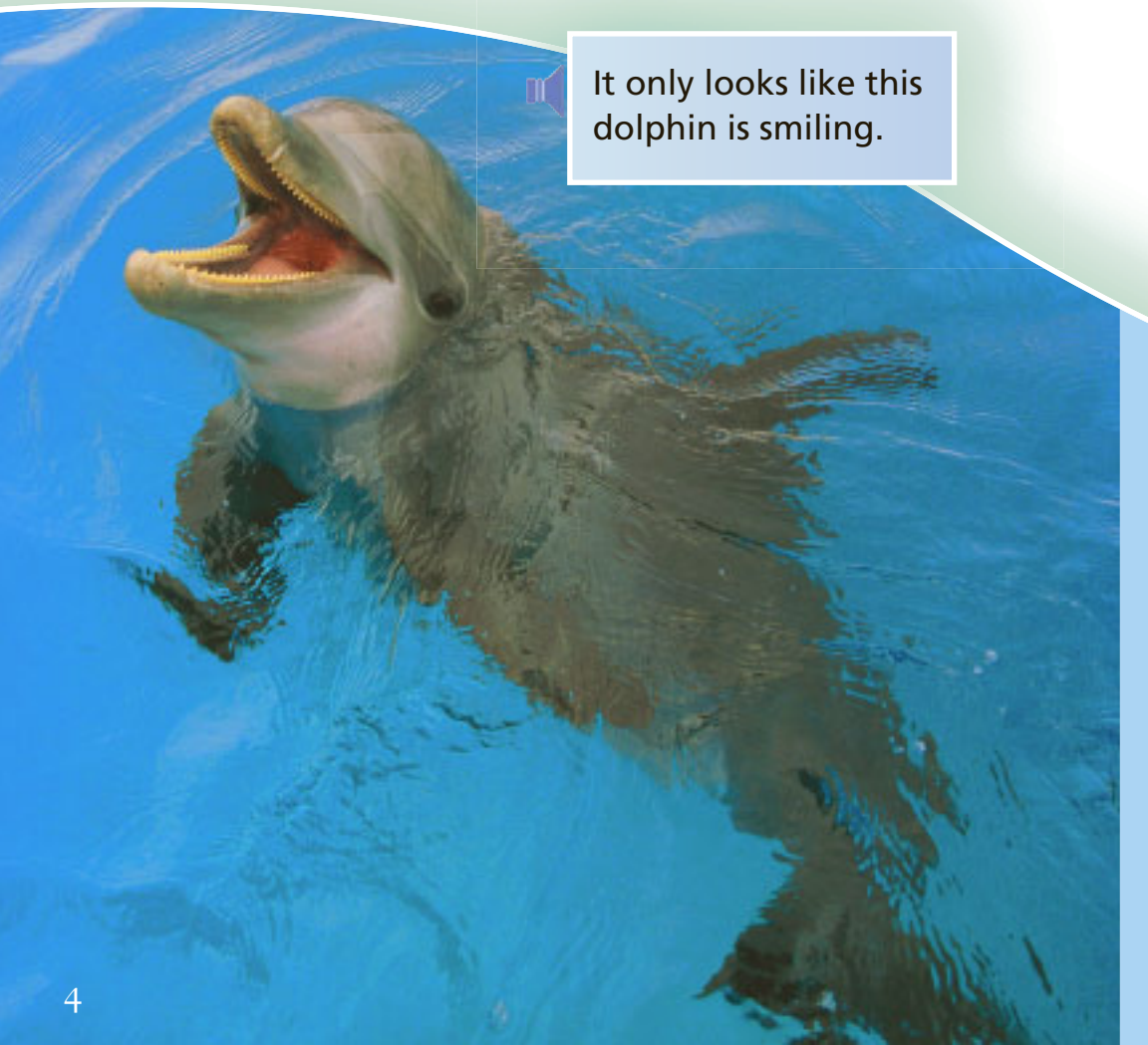
 Dolphins are not afraid of people. Sometimes they **decide** to swim near boats. In some places, dolphins will swim near people. They even let people touch them.

 There are many different kinds of dolphins. Whales are in the dolphin family. In fact, the largest dolphin is the orca, or the killer whale. The dolphins in this book are bottlenose dolphins.



🔊 Dolphins are easy to train, and they learn quickly. Many people believe that dolphins are smarter than dogs but not as smart as humans.

🔊 Dolphins often seem to be smiling, but they aren't—not really. What looks like a smile to us is just the shape of their head.

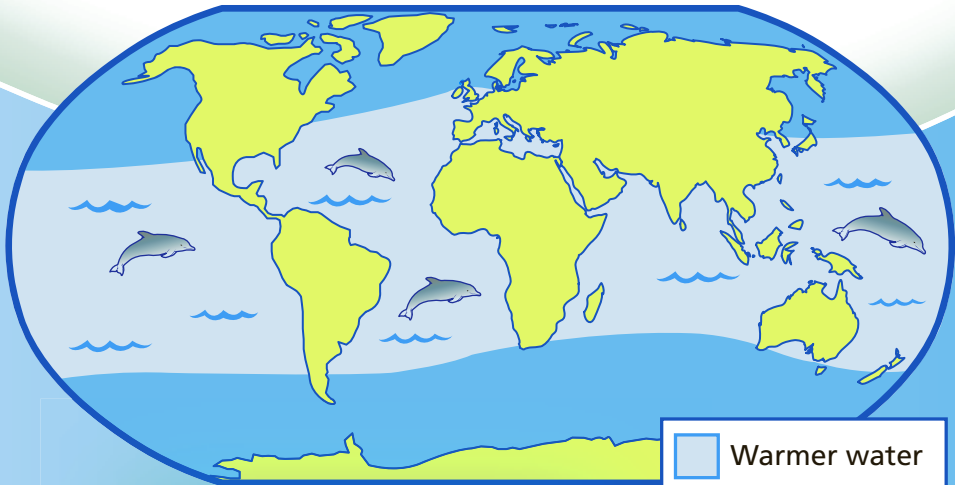


🔊 It only looks like this dolphin is smiling.

Smart Hunters

Dolphins live in the warm parts of oceans all over the world. They stay together in small groups called pods. Usually there are between 12 and 25 dolphins in a pod.

Dolphins stay together in one area. They swim miles away for their meals and then return to the area. Their **choices** for food come from the **millions** of fish that live in the ocean. They also eat squid and shrimp.



Warmer water
Colder water





Dolphins prefer to swim in warm ocean water.


🔊 Dolphins work together when they are hungry. One way is to scare a school of fish toward land. Then, when the fish get close to shore, the pod makes waves to push the fish toward land. This makes it easier for the dolphins to catch the fish. After the fish drift to the shore, the dolphins swim into the school and eat the fish.

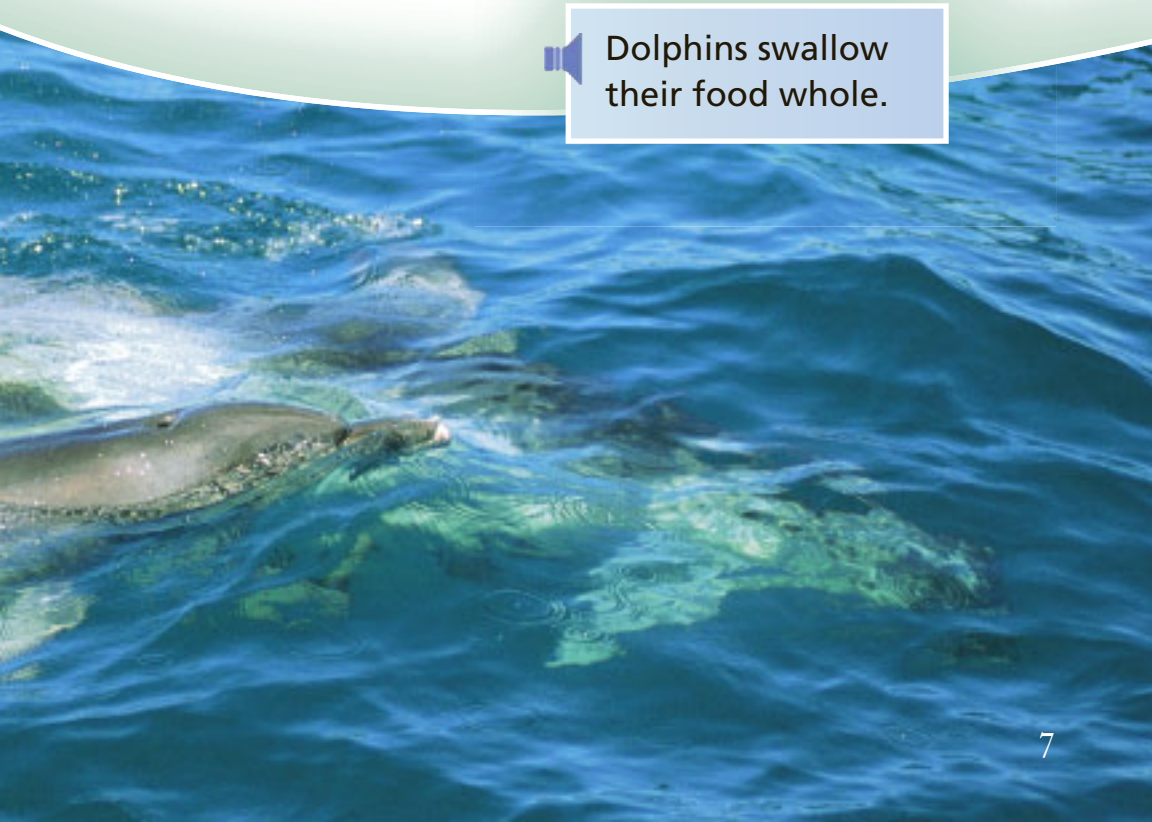
🔊 Sometimes they surround a school of fish. Then they take turns swimming inside the circle and swallowing the fish!



 Dolphins work together with fishermen in Brazil. The animals make a line in the water. One dolphin leaves the line and swims away to find a school of fish. When it returns, it stops and dives. The fishermen know there are fish there. They throw out their nets where the dolphin was diving. The nets **wrap** around the fish.


 The fishermen follow the dolphins as they take turns moving in the line. Each time, the nets catch fish. The dolphins eat the fish the nets don't catch.


 Dolphins swallow their food whole.




Dolphin Talk

Dolphins can hear very well. Sound vibration travels through a dolphin's jaw before it goes to the brain.

 Dolphins make a lot of sounds. Each dolphin has its own whistle. Other dolphins can tell exactly which dolphin is whistling.

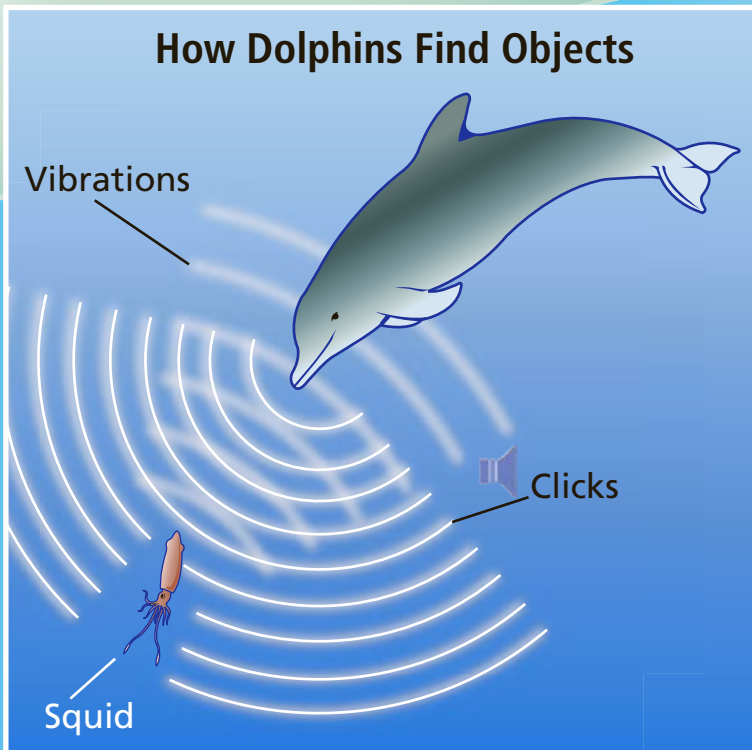
 If a baby calf gets lost, it whistles. The mother whistles back and swims toward the baby's whistle. They whistle back and forth until they finally reach each other!

 Mother dolphins and their calves whistle back and forth.





Dolphins also make high clicking sounds. They can make 1,000 clicks per second! The clicking sounds hit an object, and the vibration of the sound bounces back. Dolphins “read” the vibrations to tell how far away something is. They also know how big it is and what shape it is! They know if the object is a fish, a boat, or a rock.



🔊 Dolphins also use their bodies to send messages. They might leap into the air, snap their jaws, slap their tails on the water, or butt their heads.

🔊 This dolphin behavior is still a mystery. Scientists believe the dolphins are telling one another about danger, food, or where other dolphins are located.



Dolphins can spin many times in the air.



Playful Swimmers

Unlike most fish, dolphins are very playful. A dolphin might hitchhike on the waves of a boat. It might swim back and forth, playing in the spray of the boat.


Older dolphins play with their calves. Young dolphins chase one another. They swim belly to belly.

Dolphins of all ages love to touch. Some touches tell the other dolphin what to do. Other times their touches might be showing affection.



Avoiding Danger

Dolphins have enemies in the ocean. They must be careful of sharks.

 Dolphins have a **simple** way to protect their calves. If there is danger, they form a circle around the calf. The bodies of the larger dolphins protect the **weaker** calf from an attacking shark or other large fish.



🔊 **Disgusting** chemicals in the sea are a danger to dolphins. These harmful chemicals can make them sick or weak.

🔊 Loud noises can also hurt dolphins. Sounds from ships and other noises can hurt their ability to hear danger or talk to one another.



Dolphins swim together for protection.



🔊 Many people care about dolphins. These people are working to make the oceans safer and cleaner. They are working to make the ocean quieter.

🔊 There is so much we still don't know about dolphins. What do their sounds mean? How smart are they? Why do they jump and spin in the air? Does it mean they are hungry or simply having fun? Until scientists find out, it's just fun to watch these friendly, playful dolphins.





Responding



TARGET SKILL

Fact and Opinion

What facts can you find in *Bottlenose Dolphins*? What opinions can you find? Copy and complete the chart below.

Facts	Opinions
They work together.	They smile.
?	?
?	?



Write About It

Text to Self Dolphins work together to eat fish. How does your family work together to prepare a meal? Write a paragraph that summarizes what you do. Be sure to use adverbs to describe your actions.



TARGET VOCABULARY

choices

decide

disgusting

drift

millions

simple

weaker

wrapped

EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

behavior

mammals

Pods

vibration



TARGET SKILL

Fact and Opinion Tell if an idea can be proved or is a feeling.



TARGET STRATEGY

Monitor/Clarify Find ways to figure out what doesn't make sense.



GENRE Informational text gives facts about a topic.

Level: 0

DRA: 38

Genre:

Informational Text

Strategy:

Monitor/Clarify

Skill:

Fact and Opinion

Word Count: 964

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