

Dolphins

A study found that dolphins not only can recognize themselves in a mirror but also can notice changes in their appearance. Before this research, only humans and chimpanzees, had demonstrated self-recognition in mirrors. Scientists first marked the dolphins with "sham" marks, then exposed them to a mirror. After several repetitions, the scientists put temporary black ink on parts of the dolphins' bodies, which the animals could see only in a mirror. In each of the trials, the dolphins went to the mirror to examine the areas which the scientists had marked. The results provide definitive evidence that the two dolphins in this study used the mirror...to investigate the parts of their body that were marked.

While the test has been used with many other animals, including primates, elephants, and parrots, this is the first time non-primates have reacted to a mirror by using it to examine themselves. This study shows that the ability to recognize one's own appearance is not specific to primates.

An interesting difference between primates' and dolphins' behavior is that the dolphins paid attention to the markings on their own bodies but not to similar markings on other dolphins. Similar research on chimpanzees has shown that they notice markings on their peers. The scientists speculate that the difference may be related to the fact that chimps clean each other but dolphins do not.

12. Dolphins can remember details of their own appearance.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

13. Dolphins and chimps share some peculiar abilities.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

14. In the trials scientists put different black marks on the mirror.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

15. Behavioural habits of animals may influence their mental abilities.

- A) True.
- B) False.
- C) No information in the text.

12	a	b	c
13	a	b	c
14	a	b	c
15	a	b	c