

# THE INCREDIBLE DOLPHIN

- A Many people say dolphins are **intelligent**. They seem to be able to think, understand, and learn things quickly. But are they as **smart** as humans, or are they more like cats and dogs? Dolphins use their brains quite differently from the way people do. But scientists say dolphins and humans are **alike** in some ways. How?

## Communication

- B Like humans, every dolphin has its own "name." The name is a **special** whistle.<sup>1</sup> Each dolphin chooses a whistle for itself, usually by its first birthday. Dolphins are like people in other ways, too. They "talk" to each other about a lot of things—such as their age, their

**feelings**, and possible danger. They also use a **system** of sounds and body language to **communicate**. Understanding dolphin conversation is not easy for humans. No one "speaks dolphin" yet, but some scientists are trying to learn.

## Play

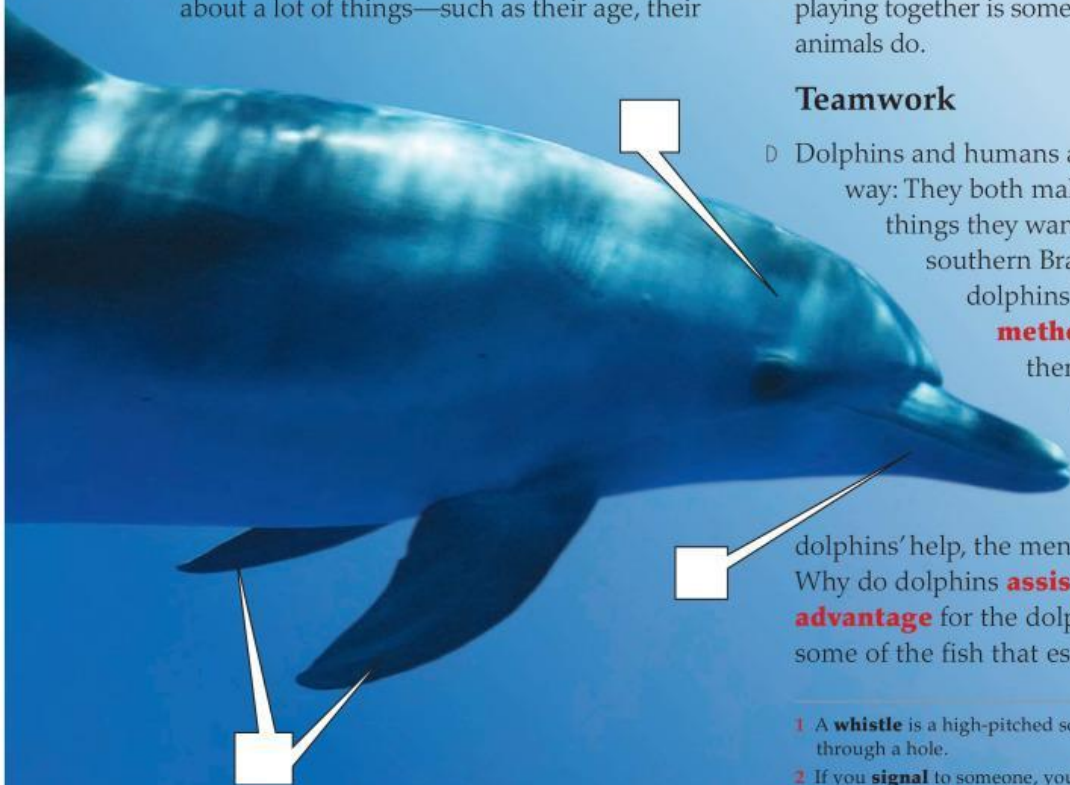
- C Dolphins live in groups called *pods*, and they often join other dolphins from different pods to play games and have fun—just like people. Sometimes they chase other dolphins carrying objects (e.g., seaweed) and throw these objects back and forth. Scientists believe playing together is something only intelligent animals do.

## Teamwork

- D Dolphins and humans are similar in another way: They both make plans for getting things they want. In the seas of southern Brazil, for example, dolphins use an intelligent **method** to get food. When there are fish near a boat, dolphins signal<sup>2</sup> to the fishermen to put their nets in the water. With the dolphins' help, the men can catch a lot of fish. Why do dolphins **assist** the men? There is an **advantage** for the dolphins: They get to eat some of the fish that escape from the net.

<sup>1</sup> A **whistle** is a high-pitched sound made by blowing air through a hole.

<sup>2</sup> If you **signal** to someone, you make an action or a sound to tell them something.



## READING COMPREHENSION

### A. Choose the best answer for each question.

#### MAIN IDEA

1. What does the reading NOT mention?
  - a. how dolphins communicate with each other
  - b. how dolphins move quickly through the water
  - c. how dolphins play games and have fun

#### INFERENCE

2. The author mentions cats and dogs in paragraph A to show that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. cats and dogs are very intelligent
  - b. there are different levels of intelligence
  - c. scientists have studied the brains of cats and dogs

#### DETAIL

3. Where does a dolphin get its "name"?
  - a. It gets it from its mother.
  - b. It gets it from scientists.
  - c. It chooses it for itself.

#### DETAIL

4. Which sentence about dolphin language is true?
  - a. Dolphins "talk" to each other about many things.
  - b. Dolphin conversation is easy for humans to understand.
  - c. Dolphins can't understand dolphins from other pods.

#### DETAIL

5. Why do dolphins sometimes help fishermen?
  - a. Dolphins are kind animals.
  - b. The dolphins can get food that way.
  - c. The fishermen ask the dolphins for help.

#### CATEGORIZING

### B. According to the reading passage, what do these dolphin behaviors (a–f) demonstrate? Add them to the chart.

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. using body language | d. joining other pods for games    |
| b. chasing each other  | e. helping fishermen catch fish    |
| c. whistling           | f. throwing seaweed back and forth |

| Communication | Play | Teamwork |
|---------------|------|----------|
|               |      |          |

➤ A bottlenose dolphin in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand