

Dolphins

Read about dolphins and complete the text with words from the box:-

whales	teeth	brains	agility
dangers	oceans	air	Pods
mammals	orca	flippers	Amazon

Dolphins are not fish but 1. _____ because they are warm-blooded, have live young and breathe in 2. _____. They belong to the same family as 3. _____. They are very sociable animals and live in groups called 4. _____.

The biggest kind of dolphin is called the 5. _____. It can grow up to about 6 metres long. They also live for a long time. Some species can live for more than 100 years! Most types of dolphin live in 6. _____ but there are five species which live in rivers, for example the 'boto' or 7. _____ River dolphin.

Dolphins can swim very fast. They use their 8. _____ to steer while they are swimming and they use their tail fins (called 'flukes'), to move them through the water. They range in colour from dark blue-grey to brown-grey. They have many 9. _____ which they use to hold their food, but they eat fish whole.

Dolphins are amazing because of their 10. _____. They can jump out of the water – as much as six metres high! Sometimes dolphins swim along side ships. This is called bow-riding.

Compared to their body size, dolphins have very large 11. _____. They seem to be intelligent and can communicate by making high frequency sounds or 'music'. They can tell each other about 12. _____ or the position of food. Maybe one day they will talk to us!

Answers: 1 = mammals; 2 = air; 3 = whales; 4 = pods; 5 = orca; 6 = oceans; 7 = Amazon; 8 = flippers; 9 = teeth; 10 = agility; 11 = brains; 12 = dangers