

Bottlenose Dolphin

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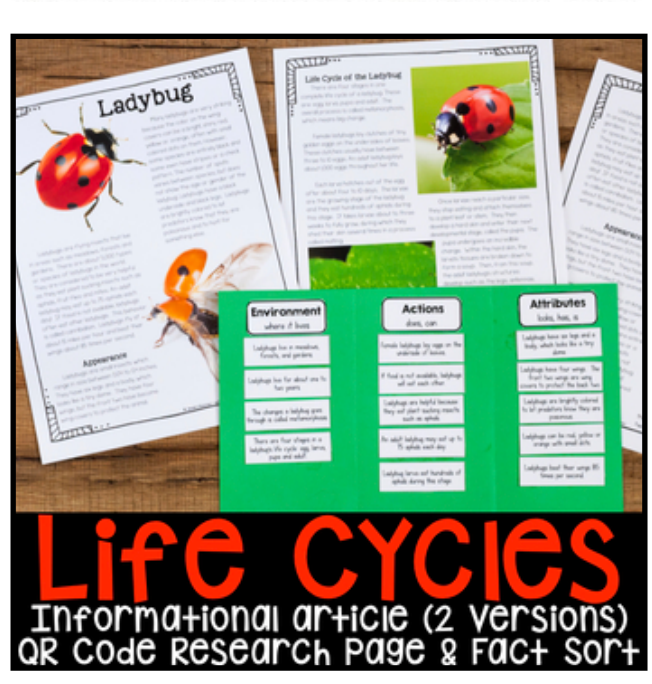
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LINK TO ACCESS DIGITAL VERSION

More Animal Articles

Each animal is available individually and as part of a habitat set.







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Teacher Notes

The following article is written at a second and third grade reading level. It follows a similar format to other Animal Articles and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

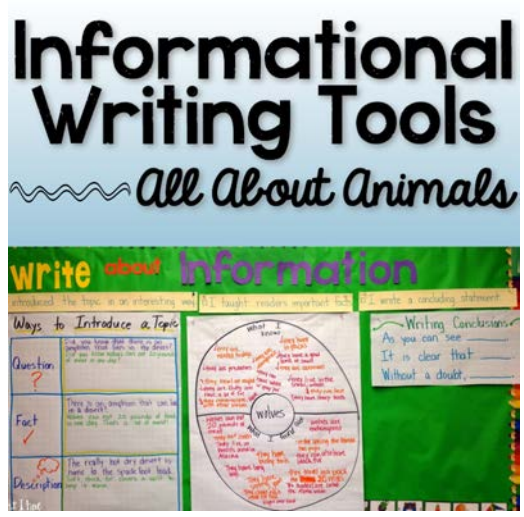
The article comes in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for websites and videos that give additional information about the animal. If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube. There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube links and the other page has the SafeTube links. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

The fact sort sheets contain facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the provided categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.





Websites

Bottlenose Dolphin



Video

YouTube Videos

Bottlenose Dolphin

There are many dolphin species in the Monterey Bay area. The most commonly seen one is the bottlenose dolphin. The bottlenose lives all over the world in warm and temperate waters. In the Monterey Bay area, it can be seen throughout the year. It lives in pods, or groups, of two to a dozen or more dolphins.

Appearance

The size of the bottlenose dolphin depends on where it lives. If the dolphin lives near the coast, it is usually 8 to 9 feet long and 400 to 550 pounds. In the deep ocean, it can grow to 12 feet long and 1,000 pounds. Male dolphins are usually larger than females.

The bottlenose dolphin's skin is blue-grey except for its white belly. This helps it hide from both predators and prey. It has a torpedo-shaped body and a bottle-like snout. On its back, the dolphin has a curved dorsal fin. It has two flippers, one on each side, and a horizontal tail.

Usually, dolphins that live near the coast have larger flippers than the ones living in deeper waters. These larger flippers help them move around quickly in smaller spaces.

dwelling fish. It uses a special tool called echolocation to hunt, talk to other dolphins, avoid predators, and navigate. It will make different noises with its nose and send these noises through the water with a part of its forehead called a melon. The noises bounce off objects or other fish and return to the dolphin as an echo. The dolphin feels the echo in its jaw, which sends signals to its brain. This helps the dolphin know how big and how far away something is.

Offspring

A female bottlenose has a calf once every two to three years and usually gives birth in the fall. She is pregnant for a year and a half. After the calf is born, it nurses for 18 months. It stays with its mother for up to three years.

Predators and Threats

There are few natural predators of the bottlenose dolphin, although sharks and orcas sometimes eat it. The biggest threats to the dolphin are people. Sometimes, the dolphin will get caught in fishing nets used to catch fish such as tuna. In many parts of the world, people hunt dolphins for food and sport. However, the bottlenose dolphin is not considered threatened

Diet and Feeding

The bottlenose eats anchovies, sardines, rockfish, crabs, eels, and other bottom-dwelling fish. It uses a special tool called echolocation to hunt, talk to other dolphins, avoid predators, and navigate. It will make different noises with its nose and send these noises through the water with a part of its forehead called a melon. The noises bounce off objects or other fish and return to the dolphin as an echo. The dolphin feels the echo in its jaw, which sends signals to its brain. This helps the dolphin know how big and how far away something is.



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Text in Two Formats & QR Codes for Internet Research

Bottlenose D
Fill in the mat

Definition

Examples

Examples

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

predator

Non-Examples

Definition

Characteristics

dorsal fin

Non-Examples



dorsal fin

the fin on the back of a fish or whale



predator

an animal that hunts and eats other animals



bottom-dwelling

living near the bottom

sec



echolocation

locating objects by reflecting sound



temperate

a climate with mild temperat



pod

a small herd of marine mammals

Vocabulary Cards & Activities

Name: _____

Bottlenose Dolphin Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
	bottom-dwelling	
	calf	the young of some large mammals, such as elephants, rhinoceroses, large deer and antelopes, and whales
	echolocation	
	threat	something that causes a plant or animal to get hurt

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Name: _____

Bottlenose Dolphin Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		a climate with mild temperatures
		
		a small herd of marine mammals
		

Bottlenose Dolphin Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

temperate	pod	living near the bottom of a sea	the fin on the back of a fish or whale
predator	dorsal fin	an animal that hunts and eats other animals	locating objects by reflecting sound

Vocabulary Activities

Fact Sort

Sort the facts into categories.

Name: _____

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
It has two flippers, one on each side, and a horizontal tail.	It uses a special tool called echolocation to hunt, talk to other dolphins, avoid predators, and navigate.	Dolphins that live near the coast have larger flippers than the ones living in deeper waters.
The size of the bottlenose dolphin depends on where it lives.	It will make different noises with its nose and send these noises through the water with a part of its forehead called a melon.	
On its back, the dolphin has a curved dorsal fin.		

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The calf stays with its mother for up to three years.

If the dolphin lives near the coast, it is usually 8 to 9 feet long.

The bottlenose lives all over the world in warm and temperate waters.

There are few natural predators of the bottlenose dolphin.

The dolphin feels the echo in its jaw, which sends signals to its brain. This helps the dolphin know how big and how far away something is.

It lives in pods, or groups, of two to a dozen or more dolphins.

Male dolphins are usually larger than females.

A female bottlenose has a calf once every two to three years.

Larger flippers help some dolphins move around quickly in smaller spaces.

The bottlenose dolphin's skin is blue-grey except for its white belly.

However, the bottlenose dolphin is not considered threatened.

In the deep ocean, it can grow to 12 feet long.

In many parts of the world, people hunt dolphins for food and sport.

It has a torpedo-shaped body and a bottle-like snout.

Sometimes, the dolphin will get caught in fishing nets used to catch fish such as tuna.

The bottlenose eats anchovies, sardines, rockfish, crabs, eels, and other bottom- dwelling fish.

The biggest threats to the dolphin are people.

Fact Sort for Organizing

Name: _____

Bottlenose Dolphin Note Taking Sheet

Appearance

Habitat

Diet & Feeding

Offspring

Ot

Bottlenos

Use the

predators	p
melon	echo

The most common dolphi

dolphin. It lives in _____

If the dolphin lives nea

it can grow to 12 feet long

white belly. This helps it h

torpedo-shaped body a

_____

side, and a horizontal

than the ones living i

quickly in smaller sp

The bottlenose

other dolphins, av

nose and send th

_____

the dolphin as

brain. This he

There ar

_____

caught in f...

I Wonder

Name: _____

What questions do you still have about the bottlenose dolphin? Write them in the bubbles.

How can you find the answers to your questions?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

umma

What I Remember

1. What does a bottlenose dolphin look

Habitat

_____

_____

_____

_____

Appearance

_____

_____

_____

_____

Note Taking Sheet

Name: _____

What makes the bottlenose dolphin unique?

Describe a bottlenose dolphin's habitat.

Write three facts about the bottlenose dolphin:

Fact

Fact

Fact

ir offspring.

Compare It

Name: _____

Choose another animal and compare the bottlenose dolphin to that animal. How are they alike? How are they different?

Comprehension Activities

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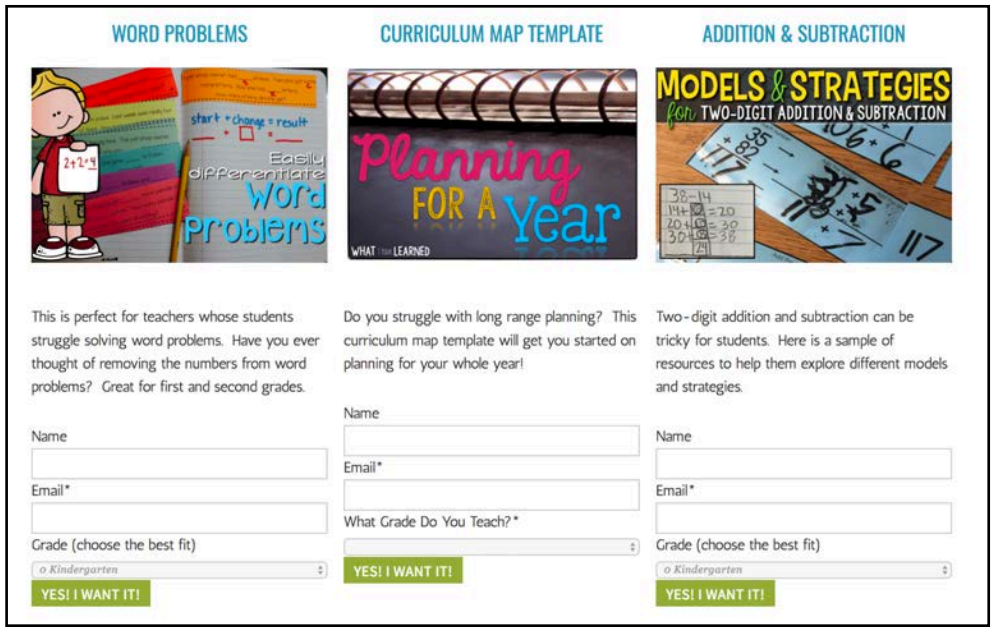
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