Riddlepedia Name _____ Date _____

Dolphin Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

1. I'm smooth and gray, I love to leap out of the waves, and I seem to wear a smile on my face. I'm not a fish, though. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. I'm a hole on top of a dolphin's head. The dolphin breathes through me, not through its mouth. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

3. Dolphins swim, hunt and play together in a group. What is a group of dolphins called?

   ANSWER _____

4. I'm a baby dolphin. I swim right next to my mom and drink her milk. What am I called?

   ANSWER _____

5. Dolphins live in the water, but they have to come up to the surface to get me. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. Dolphins breathe air, have babies that drink milk and are warm-blooded. So what kind of animal are they?

   ANSWER _____

7. I'm the curved fin on a dolphin's back. When a dolphin swims near the surface, I'm the part you see sticking out of the water. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

8. A dolphin's tail has two wide parts that move up and down to push it through the water. What are they called?

   ANSWER _____

9. Dolphins eat lots of me. I'm slippery, I have scales, and I swim in big schools. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

10. Why did the dolphin cross the beach?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. I make clicking sounds and listen for the echoes that bounce back. That's how I find fish, even in dark or muddy water. What is this skill called?

    ANSWER _____

12. Each dolphin makes its very own whistle, and other dolphins use it to call that dolphin, almost like a name. What is this sound called?

ANSWER _____

13. I'm the most famous kind of dolphin, the one most people picture. My name comes from my short, round snout. What am I?

ANSWER _____

14. I look a lot like a dolphin, but I'm smaller, my snout is round with no beak, and my teeth are flat like little spades. What am I?

ANSWER _____

15. The long snout at the front of many dolphins' faces has the same name as a bird's mouth. What is it called?

ANSWER _____

16. A dolphin's rounded forehead is full of fat. It helps focus the clicks the dolphin sends out. It shares its name with a big, juicy fruit. What is it?

ANSWER _____

17. Dolphins have lots of cone-shaped teeth, but they don't chew. What do they do with a fish?

ANSWER _____

18. I'm a dolphin that lives in a river in South America, not in the ocean. Many of us turn bright pink as we grow up. What am I?

ANSWER _____

19. Dolphins love to swim right in front of a moving boat, riding the wave it pushes along. What is this called?

ANSWER _____

20. A pod of dolphins swims around a big school of fish and pushes them into a tight, spinning ball. Then they take turns diving through it to eat. What is the ball called?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. I'm black and white, I can grow longer than a car, and people call me a whale. But I'm really the largest dolphin in the world. What am I?

ANSWER _____

22. A dolphin has to remember to breathe, even while it rests. So how does it sleep without drowning?

ANSWER _____

23. Which big land animal is the closest living relative of dolphins and whales?

ANSWER _____

24. Some bottlenose dolphins in Shark Bay, Australia, wear a soft "glove" on their beak while they dig in the rough sea floor for food. What do they use?

ANSWER _____

25. Most mammals are born headfirst. Baby dolphins are usually born the other way around. How?

ANSWER _____

26. Dolphins live in salty water but can't drink it. Where do they get most of the water their bodies need?

ANSWER _____

27. X-ray a dolphin's flipper and you'll find bones laid out a lot like the bones in one part of your body. Which part?

ANSWER _____

28. I'm a thick layer of fat under a dolphin's skin. I keep it warm in cold water and store energy for later. What am I?

ANSWER _____

29. A dolphin lifts its head straight up out of the water, as if peeking around to look at the world above. What is this called?

ANSWER _____

30. A mother dolphin feeds her calf this, just like a human mom or a cow does. What is it?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Dolphin Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. **A dolphin**
2. **The blowhole**
3. **A pod**
4. **A calf**
5. **Air.** Dolphins hold their breath when they dive.
6. **A mammal**
7. **The dorsal fin**
8. **Flukes.** A fish's tail moves side to side, but a dolphin's tail moves up and down.
9. **Fish.** Dolphins also eat squid.
10. **To get to the other tide.**
11. **Echolocation**
12. **A signature whistle**
13. **A bottlenose dolphin**
14. **A porpoise**
15. **The beak** (scientists call it the rostrum)
16. **The melon**
17. **They swallow it whole, usually headfirst.**
18. **The Amazon river dolphin** (also called the pink river dolphin, or boto)
19. **Bow riding**
20. **A bait ball**
21. **An orca** (also called a killer whale)
22. **It rests one half of its brain at a time.** The other half stays awake to keep it breathing, often with one eye open.
23. **The hippopotamus.** Whales, dolphins and hippos share an ancestor that lived on land.
24. **A sea sponge.** It's one of the few known cases of tool use by dolphins.
25. **Tail first.** That helps keep the calf from breathing in water while it's being born.
26. **From the food they eat**
27. **Your hand.** Dolphins' flippers have finger bones inside, a clue that their ancestors walked on land.
28. **Blubber**
29. **Spyhopping**
30. **Milk.** Calves drink it for a year or more.

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/dolphin-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.