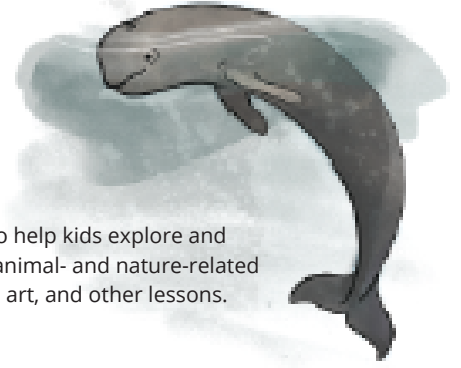




WILD CLASSROOM



WWF's Wild Classroom connects educators and parents with the tools and resources they need to help kids explore and understand the world around them. Visit wildclassroom.org to choose from a growing library of animal- and nature-related teacher's guides, fact sheets, and activity plans that you can use to enhance your science, writing, art, and other lessons.

Together we can inspire the next generation to build a future where people and nature thrive!

FRESHWATER DOLPHINS

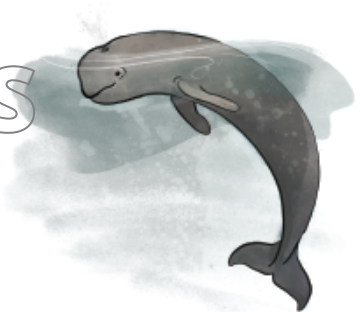
● Freshwater Dolphin Fun Facts

- Dolphins are humans' closest aquatic relatives, for both species are warm-blooded, breathe air, and nurse their young.
- Because dolphins are mammals, they need to come to the surface of the water to breathe. They do this through their blowholes rather than their mouths, to prevent water from getting in their lungs, which could cause drowning.
- To prevent drowning while sleeping, only half of the dolphin's brain goes to sleep. The other half remains awake, so they can continue to surface to breathe.
- Along with crocodiles, sharks, and sea turtles, dolphins are some of the oldest creatures on Earth. Some scientists believe the first dolphin existed about 50 million years ago.
- Freshwater dolphins are social animals and will sometimes form large pods, just like marine dolphins. However, it is more common to see them traveling alone or in small pods, sometimes consisting of only two individuals.
- Dolphins are able to emit ultrasonic sounds, known as echolocation, that bounce off fish and other animals, allowing the dolphins to picture an image of their surroundings in their minds. This ability especially benefits the Indus and Ganges river dolphins, which are essentially blind due to life in muddy waters for generations.
- The rivers that are home to freshwater dolphins are also home to over 15% of people in the world.
- The Yangtze finless porpoise is the only porpoise species that can live in freshwater. They are known for their intelligence and mischievous smile.
- The Amazon river dolphin or "boto" is known for its distinctive pink-colored body and its flexible neck, which allows it to move its head left and right. These dolphins are not born pink; they start off gray when they're young and slowly turn pink as they get older.



WILD CLASSROOM

FRESHWATER DOLPHINS



Name: _____ Date: _____

FRESHWATER DOLPHIN WORD PUZZLE

Complete the puzzle with words related to freshwater dolphins. Use your freshwater dolphin fact sheets to help you.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. All dolphins love to eat _____. | F _____ |
| 2. Just like humans, dolphins _____ their young. | _____ R _____ |
| 3. The Baiji went _____ in 2006. | E _____ |
| 4. Dolphins are some of the _____ creatures on Earth. | _____ S _____ |
| 5. Dolphins use ultrasonic sounds called _____ to find food. | _____ H _____ |
| 6. Dolphins breathe through their _____. | _____ W _____ |
| 7. Dolphins are the closest aquatic relative to _____. | _____ A _____ |
| 8. The Yangtze finless porpoise is known for its _____. | _____ T _____ |
| 9. There are _____ species of freshwater dolphin. | _____ E _____ |
| 10. The _____ that are home to freshwater dolphins are also home to over 15% of people. | R _____ |
| 11. Like humans, dolphins are warm-_____. | _____ D _____ |
| 12. Dolphins are social animals and sometimes form _____. | _____ O _____ |
| 13. Like humans, dolphins are _____ and breathe air. | _____ L _____ |
| 14. Unlike marine, freshwater dolphins rarely _____ out of the water. | _____ P _____ |
| 15. To prevent drowning, only _____ of a dolphin's brain goes to sleep. | H _____ |
| 16. The Indus and Ganges river dolphins are essentially _____. | _____ I _____ |
| 17. Amazon river dolphins turn _____ as they get older. | _____ N _____ |
| 18. One difference between freshwater and marine dolphins is how fast they _____. | S _____ |



WILD CLASSROOM

FRESHWATER DOLPHINS



Name: _____ Date: _____

FRESHWATER DOLPHIN WORD PUZZLE | ANSWER KEY

Complete the puzzle with words related to freshwater dolphins. Use your freshwater dolphin fact sheets to help you.

- All dolphins love to eat F I S H.
- Just like humans, dolphins N U R S E their young.
- The Baiji went E X T I N C T in 2006.
- Dolphins are some of the O L D E S T creatures on Earth.
- Dolphins use ultrasonic sounds called E C H O L O C A T I O N to find food.
- Dolphins breathe through their B L O W H O L E.
- Dolphins are the closest aquatic relative to H U M A N S.
- The Yangtze finless porpoise is known for its I N T E L L I G E N C E.
- There are S E V E N species of freshwater dolphin.
- The R I V E R S that are home to freshwater dolphins are also home to over 15% of people.
- Like humans, dolphins are warm-B L O O D E D.
- Dolphins are social animals and sometimes form P O D S.
- Like humans, dolphins are M A M M A L S and breathe air.
- Unlike marine, freshwater dolphins rarely J U M P out of the water.
- To prevent drowning, only H A L F of a dolphin's brain goes to sleep.
- The Indus and Ganges river dolphins are essentially B L I N D.
- Amazon river dolphins turn P I N K as they get older.
- One difference between freshwater and marine dolphins is how fast they S W I M.