

A Day in the **Life**

A **pod** of dolphins is on a hunt. The animals use sounds to **communicate** with each other. The sounds are like whistles and clicks.

A school of fish is just ahead. The dolphins circle the fish. Round and round they swim. They herd the fish into a small ball. While some keep herding, the other dolphins feed. Then they switch, so all can eat.



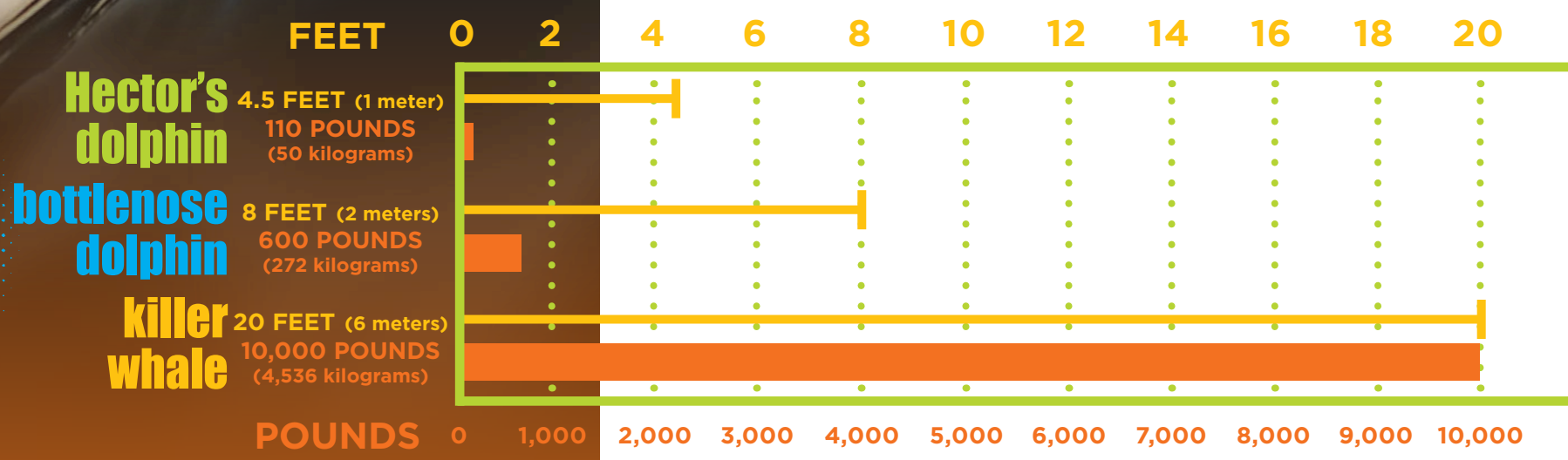


The Dolphin Family

There are about 40 types of dolphins. Some are small. Others are huge. But they are all **mammals**. They can't breathe underwater. They must come to the surface to breathe. They breathe through their blowholes.

The names of some dolphins can be confusing. Some are called whales. The largest dolphins are killer whales.

COMPARING SIZES



DOLPHIN FEATURES

EYE

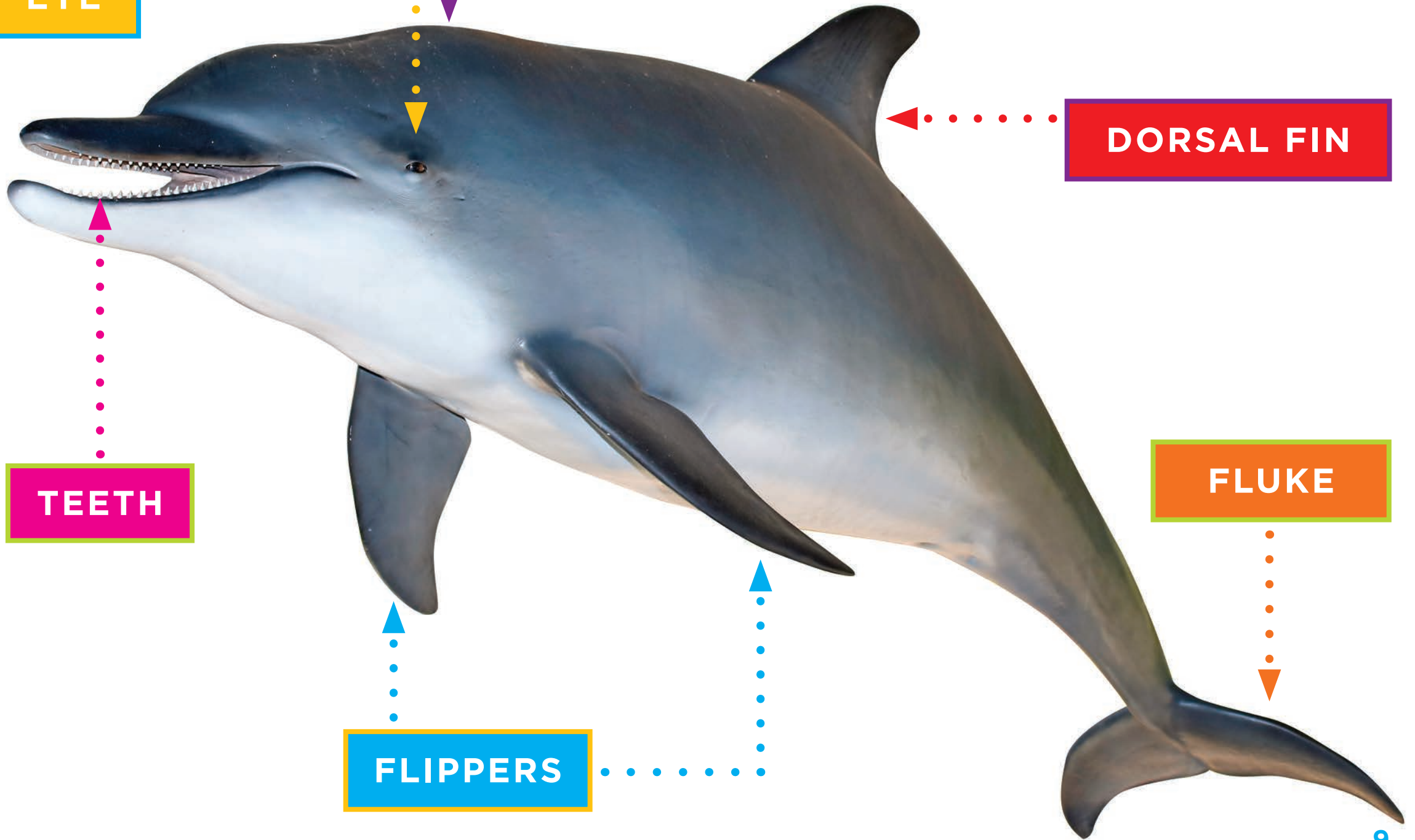
BLOWHOLE

DORSAL FIN

TEETH

FLUKE

FLIPPERS



Food to Eat

and a Place to Live

Most dolphins eat fish and squid.

Large dolphins also eat large **prey**, such as seals. Dolphins eat up to 50 pounds (23 kg) of food a day.

Dolphins use **echolocation** to hunt. They make clicks in the water. The sounds hit prey and bounce back. By listening to the echoes, dolphins know where prey is.





A Home in the World

Dolphins live in nearly all oceans. But they don't live near the North or South Poles. Many live near **shallow** coasts. Some live in the open sea. Other dolphins live in large rivers.

A dolphin never completely sleeps. One side of its brain stays awake. One eye stays open to watch for danger.

WHERE DOLPHINS LIVE

Dolphin Range Map



Keeping in Touch

Dolphins communicate with whistles and other sounds. With sounds, dolphins tell others where prey is. They also warn each other of danger. And when they want to play, sounds tell that too.

**Dolphins
do not have
a sense of
smell.**

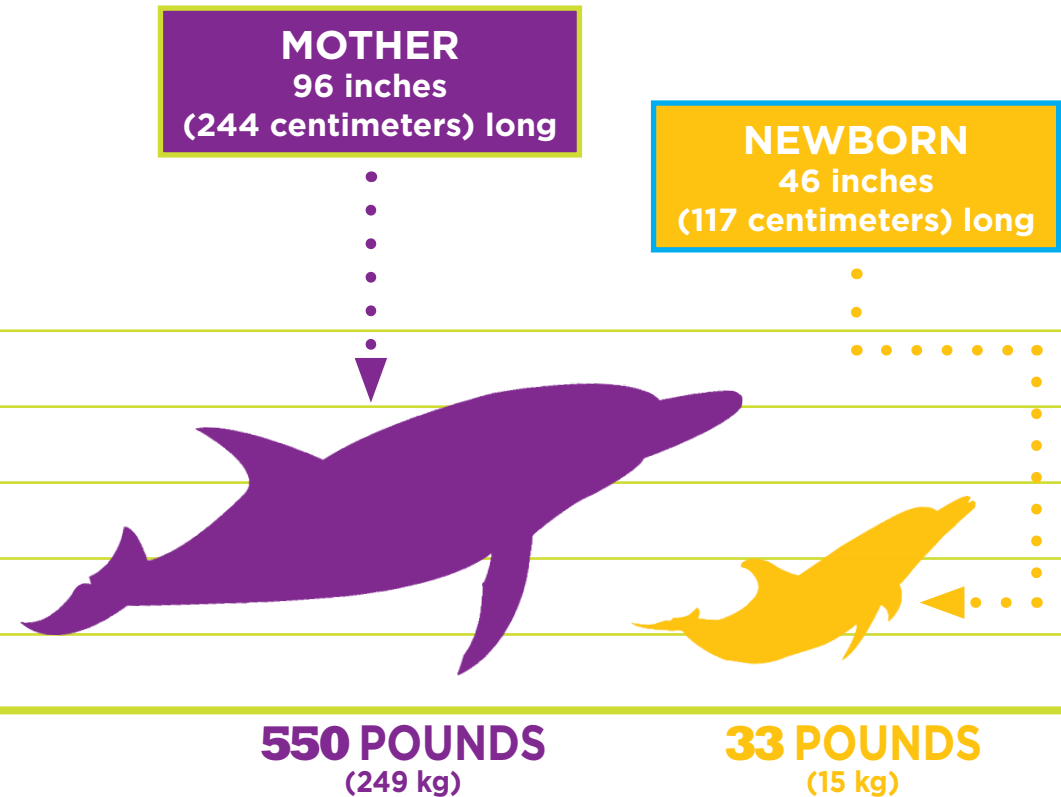




**COMPARING
SIZES
of bottlenose
dolphins**

Calves

Dolphin mothers give birth every two to six years. Most have one calf. Twins are **rare**. Calves stay with their mothers for up to eight years. Then the calves can hunt for themselves.



Threats to Dolphins

Humans put some dolphins at risk. Their actions cause dolphins to get sick. They cause many to die. At least nine types of dolphins are in danger of **extinction**.

Pollution

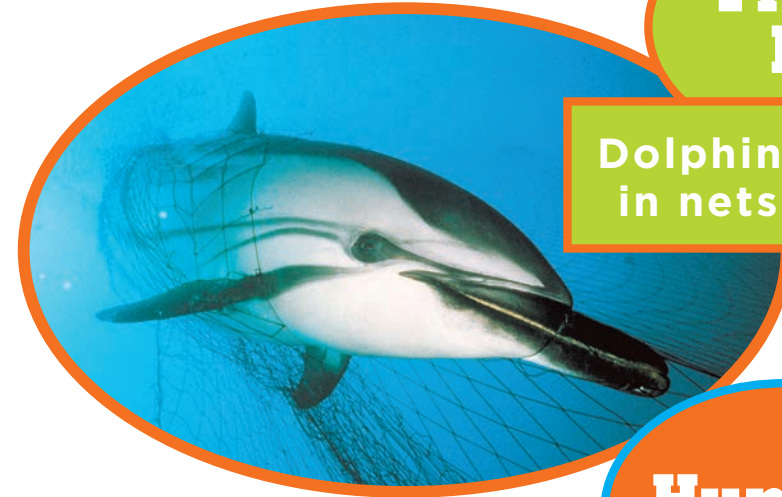
Dirty water makes dolphins sick.



Hurting Dolphins

Fishing Nets

Dolphins get caught in nets and drown.



Hunting

Some people hunt dolphins for food.



communicate (kuh-MYU-nuh-kayt)—to share information, thought, or feeling with someone else

echolocation (eh-ko-lo-KAY-shun)—a process of bouncing sound waves off something to determine where it is

extinction (ek-STINK-shun)—a state where an animal or a plant has completely died out

food chain (FOOD CHAYN)—a series of plants and animals in which each uses the next in the series as a food source

illegal (il-LEE-guhl)—against the law

mammal (MAH-muhl)—a warm-blooded animal that feeds milk to its young

pod (POD)—a group of whales or dolphins

predator (PRED-uh-tuhr)—an animal that eats other animals

prey (PRAY)—an animal hunted or killed for food

rare (RAYR)—not often occurring or found

shallow (SHAH-low)—not deep

Books

Baines, Becky. *Dolphins*. Explore My World. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Kids, 2016.

Loh-Hagan, Virginia. *Discover Bottlenose Dolphins*. Splash! Ann Arbor, MI: Cherry Lake Publishing, 2016.

Schuetz, Kari. *Bottlenose Dolphins*. Ocean Life Up Close. Minneapolis: Bellwether Media, 2017.

Websites

Common Bottlenose Dolphin

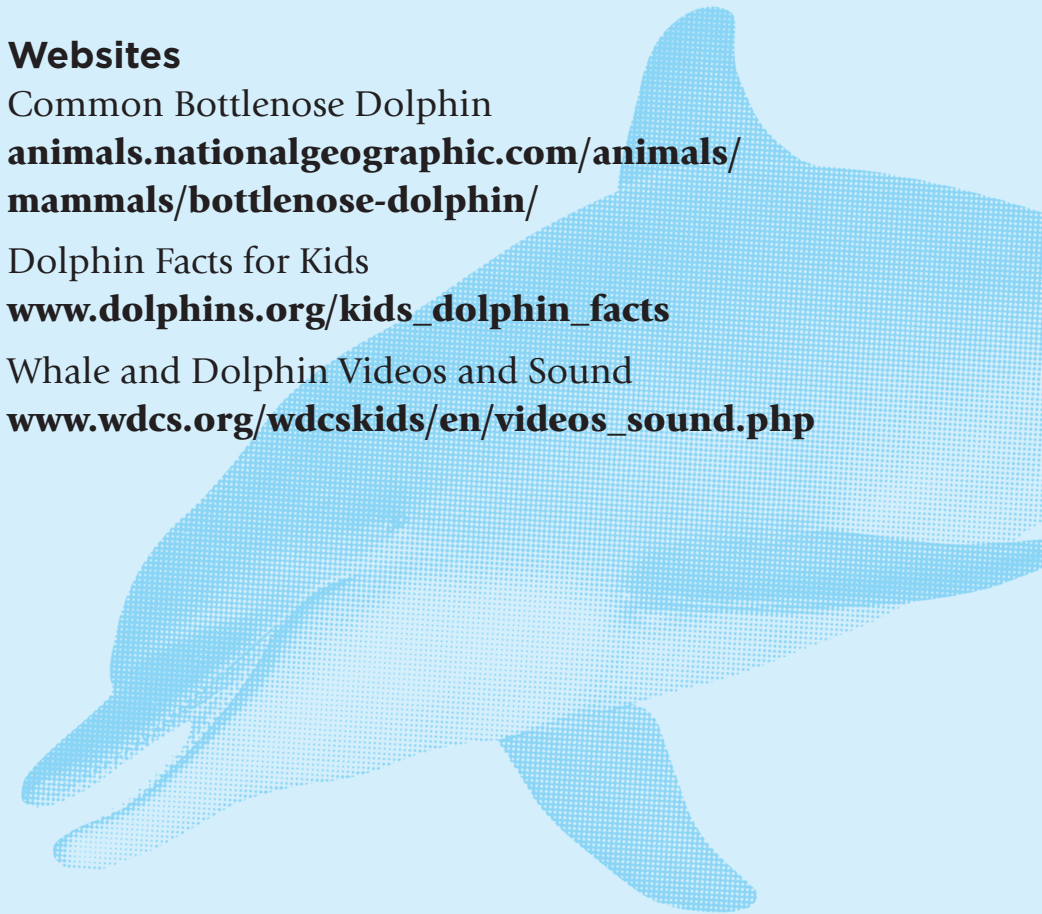
animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/bottlenose-dolphin/

Dolphin Facts for Kids

www.dolphins.org/kids_dolphin_facts

Whale and Dolphin Videos and Sound

www.wdcs.org/wdcskids/en/videos_sound.php



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