

# AMAZING ANIMALS

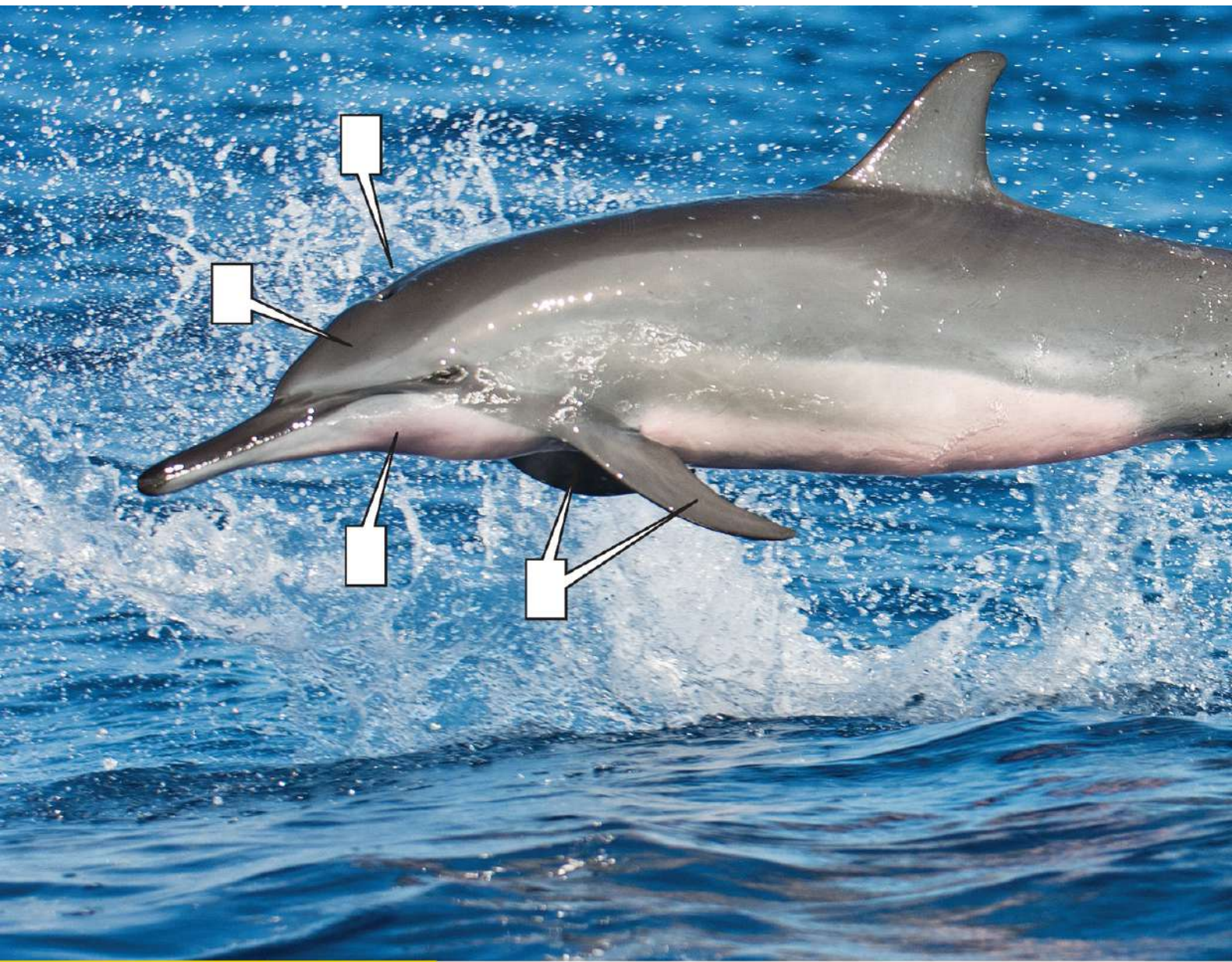
An orangutan swings from a tree in Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve, Malaysia.

## Warm Up

**Discuss these questions with a partner.**

1. What are some things humans can do that animals can't?
2. What are some things animals can do that humans can't?
3. Which is your favorite animal? Why?





## Before You Read

^ A bottlenose dolphin leaps above the water.


**A. Labeling.** Match each description (1–5) with the correct part of the dolphin.

1. Dolphins sleep by resting one half of their **brain** at a time.
2. A dolphin's **tail** doesn't have any bones, but it is full of muscles. These help to push the dolphin through the water.
3. Dolphins "hear" through a special bone in their lower **jaw**.
4. The bones inside a dolphin's **flippers** are similar to the bones inside your arm and hand.
5. Dolphins are mammals, not fish. They breathe air using a special hole (called a **blowhole**) on the top of their head.

**B. Skimming.** On the next two pages, look at the title, headings, photos, and captions. What is the reading about? Circle **a**, **b**, or **c**. Then read the passage to check your answer.

- a. types of dolphins    b. things dolphins do    c. what dolphins eat





# THE INCREDIBLE DOLPHIN

- 1 Many people say dolphins are **intelligent**. They seem to be able to think, understand, and learn things quickly. But are they as **smart** as humans, or are they more like cats and dogs? Dolphins use their brains quite differently from the way humans do. But scientists say dolphins and humans are **alike** in some ways. How?

## 5 | Communication

- Like humans, every dolphin has its own “name.” The name is a special whistle.<sup>1</sup> Each dolphin chooses a **specific** whistle for itself, usually by its first birthday. Dolphins are like people in other ways, too. They “talk” to each other about a lot of things—such as their age, their feelings, and finding food. They also use a
- 10 **system** of sounds and body language to communicate. Understanding dolphin **conversation** is not easy for humans. No one “speaks dolphin” yet, but some scientists are trying to learn.

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<sup>1</sup> A **whistle** is a high-pitched sound made by blowing air through a hole.



## Play

- 15 Dolphins are also social animals. They live in groups called *Pods*, and they often join others from different pods to play games and have fun—just like people. Scientists believe playing together is something only intelligent animals do.

## Teamwork

- 20 Dolphins and humans are similar in another way: both species make plans for getting things they want. In the seas of southern Brazil, for example, dolphins use an intelligent **strategy** to get food. When there are fish near a boat, dolphins signal<sup>2</sup> to the fishermen to put  
25 their nets in the water. Using this **method**, the men can catch a lot of fish. Why do dolphins **assist** the men? There is an **advantage** for them: they get to eat some of the fish that escape from the net.

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<sup>2</sup> If you **signal** to someone, you make an action or a sound to tell that person something.



⚡ Dolphins sometimes help fishermen find food.

✓ Dolphins travel together in groups known as pods.





# Reading Comprehension

**Multiple Choice.** Choose the best answer for each question.

Main Idea

1. What does the reading NOT mention?
  - a. how dolphins communicate with each other
  - b. how dolphins play games and have fun
  - c. how dolphins work together as a team
  - d. how dolphins move quickly through the water

Detail

2. Where does a dolphin get its “name”?
  - a. It gets it from its mother.
  - b. It gets it from scientists.
  - c. It chooses it for itself.
  - d. No one knows.

Detail

3. Which sentence about dolphin language is true?
  - a. Dolphins “talk” to each other about many things.
  - b. Dolphins whistle, but they don’t use body language.
  - c. Dolphin conversation is easy for humans to understand.
  - d. Dolphins don’t “talk” about their feelings.

Detail

4. Which sentence about dolphins and humans is NOT true?
  - a. Dolphins and humans use their brains in the same way.
  - b. Dolphins and humans play games in groups.
  - c. Dolphins and humans plan ways to do things.
  - d. Dolphins and humans communicate their feelings to each other.

Reference

5. In line 15, *others* refers to other \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. pods
  - b. people
  - c. dolphins
  - d. games

Detail

6. Why do dolphins sometimes help fishermen?
  - a. Dolphins are kind animals.
  - b. The dolphins can get food that way.
  - c. The dolphins are scared of humans.
  - d. The fishermen ask the dolphins for help.

Vocabulary

7. In the sentence *They get to eat some of the fish . . .* (lines 27–28), what does *get to* mean?
  - a. are able to
  - b. have to
  - c. should
  - d. want to

## Did You Know?

The orca, or killer whale, is actually a kind of dolphin.



## Reading Skill

### Understanding the Gist

The **gist** of a text is what the text is mainly about. When you read for the gist, don't read every word. Skim the text quickly to find out what it is basically about. Look at the title and any headings, photos, and captions. Another strategy is to read the first line of each paragraph.

- A. Multiple Choice.** Skim the passage on pages 9–10 again. What is the main idea of the reading? Circle **a**, **b**, or **c**.
- a. Some types of dolphins are much smarter than humans.
  - b. Scientists believe there are many different types of dolphins.
  - c. Dolphins are intelligent and, in some ways, are like humans.
- B. Multiple Choice.** Skim this short passage and answer the questions (1–2) below. Then read the passage again and check your answers.

The albatross is one of the world's largest flying birds. It also has the largest wings of any bird—up to 3.4 meters (slightly over 11 feet) from tip to tip. These giant birds use their wings to ride the ocean winds. They can fly for hours without rest, or even without moving their wings. Some may even be able to sleep while flying.

Most albatrosses spend nearly all their time in the air. In fact, they only return to land to breed.<sup>1</sup> A parent albatross might fly thousands of kilometers to find food for its young. In its lifetime, an albatross can fly a total of more than six million kilometers (3.8 million miles).

<sup>1</sup> When animals **breed**, they produce young.

1. What is the above passage mainly about?
  - a. where albatrosses live
  - b. albatross flying behavior
  - c. albatross intelligence
2. What could be a title for this passage?
  - a. Riding the Ocean Winds
  - b. Catching Fish
  - c. The Smartest Bird

**Critical Thinking** Discuss with a partner. The reading on pages 9–10 mentions three ways to tell if an animal is intelligent. What are they? Can you think of other ways to tell if an animal is intelligent?



▲ A wandering albatross





## Vocabulary Practice

**A. Matching.** Read the information below and match each word in **red** with its definition.

There are a few ways to test how **smart** animals are. One **method** is to test memory. Scientists in Japan showed a group of college students and a group of five-year-old chimps the numbers 1 to 9 in different places on a computer screen. The test was to see if the groups could remember the **specific** position of the numbers in the correct order. Every time, the chimps were faster than the students. Why? Did someone **assist** the chimps? No, but the animals probably had an important **advantage**: They were young. As both humans and animals get older, their memory gets worse.


1. \_\_\_\_\_: a way of doing something
2. \_\_\_\_\_: help
3. \_\_\_\_\_: something that helps you succeed
4. \_\_\_\_\_: exact
5. \_\_\_\_\_: intelligent



^ A Sumatran orangutan,  
*Pongo abelii*

**B. Completion.** Complete the information with the words and phrases from the box.

**alike   conversation   intelligent   language system   strategy**



Orangutans and humans are 1. \_\_\_\_\_ in some ways. For example, did you know that the orangutan is a very 2. \_\_\_\_\_ animal? Orangutans use a(n) 3. \_\_\_\_\_ to stay dry when it rains: They take leaves from trees and use them like umbrellas. These animals don't have a complex<sup>1</sup> 4. \_\_\_\_\_ like humans do. But today, some orangutans are learning basic sign language. Maybe, in the future, we will be able to have a simple 5. \_\_\_\_\_ with them.

<sup>1</sup> If something is **complex**, it is made up of many parts.

**Word Link** The suffixes **-ance** and **-ence** at the end of a word indicate that it is a noun. For example, *assistance* is the noun form of *assist*. It means “helping someone.”