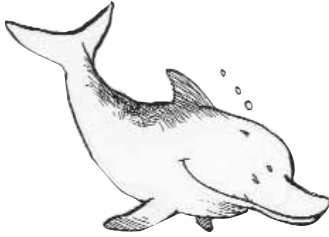


Name _____

Dolphin Dive

What do dolphins have in common with humans and bats? What about *trees*? To find out, dive down to the box below. Choose the word that best completes each sentence and write it in the blank.

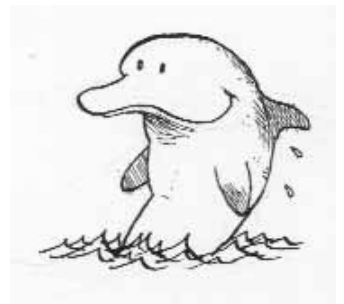


How are dolphins like you and me—and bats? We're all warm-blooded, air-breathing _____! Bats and humans obviously couldn't survive a life underwater—so how do dolphins do it? Well, for one thing, they have a layer of _____ under their skin. Blubber insulates their bodies, keeping them warm in chilly water.

Dolphins can also hold their _____ a lot longer than we can—some as long as 20 minutes! Most of the time, however, they swim to the surface one or two times a _____ to take a breath. Unlike people, dolphins don't need to lift their _____ out of water to breathe. An opening on top of their head, called a _____, lets air in and out. When dolphins surface and _____, the hole opens with a burst of air and a spray of water.

Are you wondering how dolphins sleep if they have to surface so often to breathe? They use their noggins! One side of their _____ sleeps while the other side stays awake. The side that's awake reminds them to come up for air.

How are dolphins like bats? Dolphins use *echolocation* to figure out what's around them. Bats send sound through air; dolphins send sound through _____. The sound bounces off objects in their path and _____ back to them. The echoes tell them what lies ahead—a juicy mosquito or a flavorful fish!



OK, that makes sense, but how can dolphins possibly be like trees? As you know, each year a new layer of wood grows on most trees, forming a ring. By _____ the rings on a tree stump, you can tell how old the tree is. Same with dolphins—sort of! Dolphins' teeth grow in layers each year. By counting the layers on a dolphin's _____, you can tell her _____.

age blowhole blubber brain breath counting echoes
exhale head mammals minute teeth water