

FUN FACT

Female dolphins are called cows, males are called bulls and young dolphins are called calves.

Dolphins

Dolphins are one of the most well known marine mammals, and are a common sight in Irish coastal waters. They are playful, social and very intelligent animals. They have an advanced communication system consisting of squeaking, clicking and whistling. Dolphins have excellent eyesight (both above and below water) and hearing as well as the ability to use echolocation for finding the exact location of objects. Dolphins have long snouts that usually contain over 100 teeth. They also have a blowhole on the top of their head that they use for breathing.



There are 39 species of dolphins found in oceans. In Ireland, you are most likely to find the common or the bottlenose dolphin. Both of these types live in groups, called schools. These can be found in bays, in harbours and even following fishing boats hoping to feed on some of the fishermen's catch. Dolphins are very closely related to whales. Did you know killer whales, also known as orcas, are in fact dolphins. Dolphins are carnivores and enjoy a diet of fish and squid.



Actions:

- Research other types of marine mammals
- How could fishing impact dolphins?
- Watch a documentary on dolphins
- Write a short story titled "A day in the life of a dolphin"