**Dolphins Facts: Let's read carefully!** (three times quietly and 3x aloud)Dolphins are very intelligent animals.

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

Dolphins stick together and have some friends. They hand out in schools, up to 12 of them.

The dolphin is the only mammal that gives birth with the tail first instead of the head, and this is to make sure their baby doesn’t drown. Animals are amazing.

Dolphins stay with their moms for about 2 to 3 years.

They are very playful animals, which is probably why a humans love them so much and are so fascinated by them.

You can see them jumping out the water, riding waves, play-fighting, and sometimes they even come and give you a quick nudge to say 'hi!' if you’re in the water with them!

They also like to tease a bit. Amazingly they also play with seaweed.
Dolphins can’t breathe out of their mouths. So how do they breathe? Well they use the blowhole at the top of their heads, which is like a big nostril.

Dolphins make clicking and whistling sounds…well this is how they chat to each other. It is great to learn their language and talk to them too.

Wow, there are a lot of different types of dolphins. There are 36 different species of ocean dolphins and 5 species of river dolphins. Most live in saltwater but some of them live in freshwater, mostly the Amazon River.

Dolphins live for about 17 years in the wild, but there are some that can live up to the age of 50. That’s a lot.

**What Do Dolphins Eat?**
They are carnivores, which mean they eat meat including fish and squid. Yum.

Dolphins have about 100 teeth, but some dolphins have 8 teeth and there are others with 250. Bottlenose dolphins have 72-104 teeth.

They only get one set of teeth for life. They catch their prey with their teeth and then swallow them whole. They don’t have any jaw muscles so that’s why they can’t chew.

They eat about 30 pounds (about 14 kilograms) of fish each day.

We know they’re clever, but the way they catch their prey is brilliant. The whale pod works as a team and they get a school of fish surrounded and balled up, so that they’re much easier to eat.

They use all sorts of ways to make sure they get their dinner; they can jump or do zig-zag patters, circles or a combination of all to make sure they catch their fish.

Dolphins have a cool time under the water, playing and swimming, but they can’t breathe underwater.

**So how do they get air?** Well they come up for air all the time, which is why you can see them above the water.

They can stay underwater for between 20 seconds and 30 minutes. Do you think you can hold your breath for 30 minutes? Don’t think so.

**IMPORTANT WORDS! What do they mean? DICTIONARY

- a male:** samec **- a female:** samica **- bulls:** biki **- calves:** telički **- hand out:** razdeliti **- school:** jata  **- mammals:** sesalci **- to give birth:** roditi, kotiti **- to drown:** utopiti **- playful:** igriv **- a human:** človek **- to nudge:** dregniti **- to tease:** hecati se **- seaweed:** alge, morske trave **- blowhole:** dihalna odprtina **- a nostril:**  nosnica **- species:** vrsta **- saltwater:** slana voda **- freshwater:** sladka voda **- carnivores:** mesojedci **- a squid:**  ligenj **- a Bottlenose:** pliskavka, navadni delfin **- prey:** plen **- to swallow:**  pogoltniti **- jaw muscles:** čeljustne mišice **- to chew:** žvečiti **- balled up:** zbrani v klobčiču **- zig-zag:** cik-cak **- above:** nad