

# DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER

Distance Learning: Middle School Dolphin Anatomy, Physiology & Health

---

**Grade Levels:** 6-8

**Concepts Addressed:**

- Discover a dolphin's unique personality and see what we can learn from them.
- Discuss what makes dolphins mammals.
- Basic anatomy: from flippers to flukes and how it compares to humans
- Brief discussion of the musculoskeletal, circulatory, sensory, digestive, respiratory, excretory, immune and nervous systems.
- Comparison of organs between dolphins and humans including the stomach, kidneys and brain.
- Physiological adaptations unique to an aquatic mammal.
- Discussion of infectious agents that can affect both people and dolphins such as viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites.
- Learn about how trainers and veterinary staff work to keep their animal populations healthy.
- Learn about the threats facing dolphins and how people can work together to save dolphins.
- Have the opportunity to ask a dolphin expert questions!

**Standards:**

**Florida**

**Florida Next Generation Science Standards met or supported:**

- **SC.6.L.14.5** Identify and investigate the general functions of the major systems of the human body (digestive, respiratory, circulatory, reproductive, excretory, immune, nervous, and musculoskeletal) and describe ways these systems interact with each other to maintain homeostasis.
- **SC.6.L.14.6** Compare and contrast types of infectious agents that may infect the human body, including viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites.

**Language Arts Florida Standards met or supported:**

- **LAFS.6.SL.1.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under



**DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER**, 58901 Overseas Hwy, Grassy Key, FL 33050  
(305) 289-1121 [www.dolphins.org](http://www.dolphins.org)

## Distance Learning: Middle School Dolphin Anatomy, Physiology & Health

---

discussion. b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. c. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion. d. Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.

- **LAFS.7.SL.1.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. c. Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed. d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.
- **LAFS.8.SL.1.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas. d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.

### ***National***

#### **Next Generation Science Standards met or supported:**

- **MS-LS1-3.** Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.

#### **Common Core for English Language Arts met or supported:**



## Distance Learning: Middle School Dolphin Anatomy, Physiology & Health

---

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. A. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. B. Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. C. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion. D. Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.7.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. A. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. B. Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. C. Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed. D. Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. A. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. B. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. C. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations,



## Distance Learning: Middle School Dolphin Anatomy, Physiology & Health

---

and ideas. D. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.

### Ocean Literacy Principles

- **5A** Ocean life ranges in size from the smallest living things, microbes, to the largest animal on Earth, blue whales.
- **5D** Ocean biology provides many unique examples of life cycles, adaptations, and important relationships among organisms (symbiosis, predator-prey dynamics, and energy transfer) that do not occur on land.
- **6D** Humans affect the ocean in a variety of ways. Laws, regulations, and resource management affect what is taken out and put into the ocean. Human development and activity leads to pollution (point source, nonpoint source, and noise pollution), changes to ocean chemistry (ocean acidification), and physical modifications (changes to beaches, shores, and rivers). In addition, humans have removed most of the large vertebrates from the ocean.
- **6G** Everyone is responsible for caring for the ocean. The ocean sustains life on Earth and humans must live in ways that sustain the ocean. Individual and collective actions are needed to effectively manage ocean resources for all.

*Other state standards upon request*

