

DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER

What's in the News?

Grade Level: 3rd-5th

Objectives: Students will be able to summarize current events regarding marine mammals, gather information from media resources, and present a brief summary to the class.

Florida Sunshine State Standards:

Language Arts

LA.C.1.2.1 The student listens and responds to a variety of oral presentations, such as stories, poems, skits, songs, personal accounts, informational speeches.

LA.C.3.2.1: The student speaks clearly and at an understandable rate and uses appropriate volume.

LA.C.3.2.3: The student speaks for specific occasions, audiences, and purposes.

LA.D.2.2.5: The student understands that a variety of messages can be conveyed through mass media.

Science

SC.G.2.2.1: The student knows that all living things must compete for Earth's limited resources.

Social Studies

SS.B.2.2.4: The student understands how factors such as population growth, human impact, etc., effect the use and conservation of natural resources.

National Science Standards:

Content Standard F (K-4) - Changes in Environments; Changes in environments can be natural or influenced by humans. Some changes are good, some are bad, and some are neither good nor bad. Pollution is a change in the environment that can influence the health, survival, or activities of organisms, including humans.

Content Standard F (5-8) - Natural Hazards: Human activities also can induce hazards through resource acquisition, urban growth, land-use decisions, and waste disposal. Such activities can accelerate many natural changes.

Background: This activity is a way to encourage students to read the newspaper, watch the news, or perform online searches in order to be aware of current events regarding marine mammals. This is an important lesson in that the more we know of current statistics of endangered species such as manatees, for example, the more we learn about boating regulations and other contributing factors, the more we can do to protect them. See **Personal Solutions** or **Threats to Dolphins** information file for examples and select appropriate ones for your class to discuss how humans are indeed threats to marine mammals.



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Materials:

- Current newspapers
- Magazines (i.e. National Geographic, [NOAA Magazine](#), [ScienceDaily Magazine](#))
- Television
- **Current Event Web Sites:** <http://www.marinemammal.net/>

Other possibilities:

<http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/> CNN world Site

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml> BBC's web site

http://www.msnbc.com/news/intlnews_front.asp?Osi= MSNBC international site

Teacher Prep Notes: Visit web sites and select the ones most appropriate for your grade levels if students will be using the Internet. As a model, print out an appropriate article, preferably a short one to read aloud to the class.

Procedures:

1. Introduce this activity with a question: If I wanted to find out what's in the news, what could I do? Discuss various methods: TV, Internet, newspapers, etc.
2. Another question: What if I wanted to find out news about whales or dolphins?
3. Show pictures of dolphins, whales, and other marine mammals. Explain that all of these animals are marine mammals. Explain the five characteristics of mammals and that marine mammals live in the water.

Mammals:

- Breathe air
- Have hair
- Warm blooded
- Nurse their young
- Give birth to live young

Ask: How many of you have seen one of these marine mammals in the news? Discuss.

4. Do you think marine mammals need our help to protect them from becoming threatened, endangered, or even extinct?
5. Explain the key words & discuss why they might be in danger. See **Threats to Dolphins** information file for examples and select appropriate ones for your class.
6. Read aloud the article you chose and explain to students how and where you found it, i.e. the newspaper, TV, on-line, magazine, etc.
7. Fill out the handout as a class.
8. As a class, write a brief summary.
9. Model to the class how to present their summaries.
10. Assign students to select a current news article concerning marine mammals from sources provided. You may want to provide the articles or news sources for the students. The



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news source can be the same for the whole class or different for individual groups. If broken into groups, you may want to select articles on the same topic that support different ideas. This is a great way to point out that people have different viewpoints.

11. Pass out handout to help them write their summary. Each summary should be at least five sentences.
12. Before students share their summaries and present them to the class, go over good speaking skills such as making eye contact, avoiding nervous gestures like twirling hair or pacing back and forth or saying “um” a lot, speaking in a way to engage your audience, not put them to sleep. Model monotone speaking, fast speaking, etc. Make sure to model correct public speaking skills so they can identify them and apply them to their presentations.

Wrap Up: Have students share summaries.

Taking it Further:

- This activity could be incorporated into a debate on a current issue facing marine mammals.



What's in the News?

Name: _____

Date: _____

News Source: Please circle one

T.V. Internet Newspaper Magazine Other

Write which T.V. Station, web site, newspaper, magazine, or source you used on the line provided: _____

Topic: _____

Main

Idea: _____

Supporting ideas:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Conclusion: What can we do? What did you learn?



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Things to remember for your presentations:

Make eye contact with your audience.

Speak loud enough so people at the back of the class can hear you.

Avoid nervous gestures like swaying, pacing back and forth, and twirling your hair.

Speak with emotion in your voice as if you are telling someone your favorite story.

Guess what? Everyone in your class wants to hear what you have to say!

Please be considerate of others when you are not speaking to listen to the other presentations.

