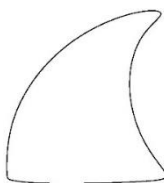


Who are you? Dolphin Photo Identification Activity

Every human has a unique fingerprint, even twins! Dolphins have a unique feature too, their dorsal fin. At Clearwater Marine Aquarium, our Education and Research staff study wild bottlenose dolphins by taking photos of their dorsal fins and using distinct markings on the fins to identify them from one another. These markings tell the dolphin's story. Is the dolphin active? Did the dolphin get into a rough area looking for food? Did the dolphin get hit by boat? If you were a dolphin, what would your dorsal fin say about you? Create a dorsal fin that would help a marine biologist identify you!

Materials:

- Construction paper or cardstock
 - Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
 - Scissors
 - Glue or tape
1. Draw your dorsal fin on the paper (use the example shape below). Think about what the shape says about you.



2. Cut out your dorsal fin.
3. Create! Draw things on your dorsal fin that represent you. What nicks and notches would you have if you were a dolphin? What is your favorite color? Hobby? Animal?

Sample:



Activity extension: Learn more about CMA's Wild Dolphin Research Program by reading the blog post in the link below. Then put your knowledge to the test by playing the dorsal ID matching game at the bottom of the webpage!

<https://www.seewinter.com/how-wild-dolphin-dorsal-fins-change-over-time/>



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