

# Dolphin Designers

**Grade Level:** Grades 1 & 2

**Language Arts Skills:** Synonyms and Antonyms

*Florida Sunshine State Standards:*

*Grade 1:* LA.1.1.6.6, LA.1.1.6.7

*Grade 2:* LA.2.1.6.7

## **Description:**

Students practice using synonyms and antonyms while discussing the basic needs of dolphins.

## **Materials:**

- White board/Chart Paper
- Markers
- Construction paper
  - o Blue
  - o Gray
  - o White
- Glue
- Scissors
- “Design a Dolphin” worksheet

## **Preparations:**

Put student desks in small groups of four or less. Ensure that each desk is supplied with one piece of blue, gray, and white construction paper and that each group is supplied with glue and safety scissors to share. Print off enough “Design a Dolphin” worksheets for each student to have one.

## **Procedures:**

- 1) Ask students about times that they have seen dolphins, either on television or in the movies, at zoos or aquariums, or in the wild.
- 2) Talk about how different animals need different types of environments to live.
- 3) Write the following antonyms on the board/chart paper.
  - Wet/Dry
  - Big/Small

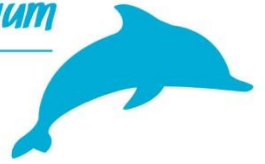
- Apart/Together
  - Shallow/Deep
- 4) Tell your students that they are designing a dolphin exhibit at a zoo or aquarium and they need to pick the type of environment that is best suited for a dolphin from the following opposite words or antonyms. (Do dolphins live somewhere wet or dry? Should their tank be big or small? Should they be alone or together? Should the tank be shallow or deep?)
  - 5) Using the choices picked by the class, tell them to create the dolphin exhibit out of the construction paper in front of them. The white paper is their tank, the blue paper symbolizes the water, and the gray paper can be cut into dolphins. Have them label the tank as shallow or deep, big or small, wet or dry, and label their dolphin(s) as alone or together.
  - 6) When they've finished creating their dolphin exhibit, have them talk to their group members about why the dolphin needs an environment that is wet, big, deep, and needs to have other dolphins.
  - 7) Ask one representative from each group to explain why a dolphin needs those characteristics in their environment to the rest of the class.
  - 8) Pass out the "Design a Dolphin" worksheet and allow student to work in groups to design their own dolphin using the descriptions and synonyms and antonyms provided.

**Additional Activities:**

- 1) Have students design and label a dolphin exhibit diorama out of a shoebox, string, and construction paper.
- 2) Have students using modeling clay or dough to create a dolphin with the characteristics from the "Design a Dolphin" worksheet.

**Assessment:**

- 1) Students understand what animals like dolphins need to survive and can list some of their basic needs and characteristics
- 2) Students know the difference between a synonym and an antonym and can distinguish between the two when presented with choices.



# Design a Dolphin

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read each of the sentences about dolphins and pick the word that best answers the question.

- 1) Dolphins hunt for fish using their **sharp** teeth. They don't chew – they swallow their food whole!

What word means the same thing as (is a synonym of) **sharp**?

- a) Dull                      b) Blunt                      c) Pointed

- 2) Dolphins don't have any fur. Instead, their skin is **smooth**.

What word means the opposite of (is an antonym of) **smooth**?

- a) Rough                      b) Slick                      c) Glossy

- 3) Dolphins make **loud** clicks and whistles that help them find their food.

What word is a synonym of **loud**?

- a) Soft                      b) Noisy                      c) Quiet

- 4) Dolphins use their **strong** tail to help them swim through the water.

What word is an antonym of **strong**?

- a) Tough                      b) Weak                      c) Powerful

- 5) Because of their strong tails, dolphins can jump high and swim very **fast**!

What word is a synonym for **fast**?

- a) Quick                                      b) Slow                                      c) Sluggish

6) Some dolphins are as **heavy** as 800 pounds.

What word is an antonym for **heavy**?

- a) Light                                      b) Weighty                                      c) Small

### ***BONUS QUESTIONS***

7) Bottlenose dolphins live in the **warm** waters around the equator all over the world.

What word is the best antonym for warm?

- a) Hot                                      b) Cold                                      c) Cool

8) The killer whale or Orca is the **largest** dolphin in the world.

What word is the best synonym for largest?

- a) Biggest                                      b) Smallest                                      c) Greatest