

Dolphins & You

Grade Level: 1 & 2

Science Skills:

Florida Sunshine State Standards:

Grade 1: SC.1.L.17.1, SC.2.L.17.1

Grade 2: SC.2.L.17.2

Description: Using thinking skills, students compare themselves and their needs to those of the resident dolphins at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Materials:

- Chart paper/whiteboard
- Markers/dry-erase markers
- Measuring tape
- Pencils
- Scale
- Lunch sack, filled with sandwich, apple, and dessert
- Stopwatch
- An orange or other juicy fruit (divided into enough sections so there is 1 per group) (optional)
- Measuring cup (optional)
- “Meet CMA’s Dolphins” story
- “Dolphins & You” Worksheet
- “CMA Dolphin Respirations” video (available online)/video player

Preparations: Group students into groups of four. Set up a “Space” station, a “Food Station”, a “Water” station, and an “Air” station. Print out one “Dolphins & You” worksheet for each group of four.

“Space Station” Materials: Measuring tape, pencils

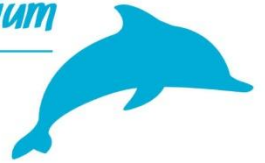
“Food Station” Materials: Scale, lunch sack

“Water Station” Materials: Orange (1 for each group of four), measuring cup

“Air Station” Materials: Stopwatch

Procedures:

- 1) Discuss the things that all living creatures need and why? Talk about the importance of space, air, food, and water.
- 2) Create a chart on the white board or chart paper with four columns (space, air, food, and water)
- 3) Ask students to raise their hands and list things they use to fulfill those needs (i.e., for food, hot dogs, watermelon, etc.)
- 4) Talk about zoos and aquariums that students have visited. Talk about the animals student have seen and list a few of their favorite animals (such as lions, sharks, elephants, tigers, etc.)
- 5) Make a chart for three of those animals and discuss their needs and what the zoo and aquarium care staff do to take care of them.
- 6) Read aloud the “Meet CMA’s Dolphins” story about each of the dolphins at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- 7) Make a chart for dolphins and ask the student what they think a dolphin needs
- 8) Group students into fours. Pass out one “Dolphins & You” Worksheet to each group.
- 9) Have the students take turns visiting each station and filling out their worksheets.
- 10) Have each group share their results with the rest of the class.
- 11) Fill out the four page of the “Dolphins & You” Worksheet using the “Dolphins & You” Answer Sheet



Meet the Dolphins

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is a very special place. All of the dolphins, otters, and sea turtles that live at the aquarium are not able to live in the wild anymore. They need special care, either because they were sick or hurt.

There are four dolphins that live at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. They were each rescued for a different reason. Their names are Panama, Nicholas, Winter, and Hope.

The oldest and largest dolphin is named Panama. Panama was a “beggar” dolphin – she used to beg for food from boats. Many people do not know that it is against the law to feed a dolphin, and Panama became very sick from the food people gave her. Panama now lives at CMA. The food she eats there is looked at very carefully to make sure it is healthy for Panama to eat. Panama is also deaf, which means she cannot hear at all. Her trainers work with her using only hand signals, just like sign language.

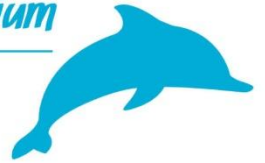
Nicholas arrived at the aquarium when he was much younger than Panama. As a calf, or baby dolphin, Nicholas stranded on a beach with his mother. His mother was very sick and, even though Nicholas was healthy, he followed his mother everywhere! Normally, dolphins are protected from the sun by the water they live in, but lying out on the beach, Nicholas received a very bad sunburn. He was brought to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where they took care of his burns. Nicholas lives at the aquarium now because his mother passed away before she was able to teach him how to hunt, avoid predators like sharks, and other things baby dolphins need to learn.

Winter is a little different from the other dolphins at the aquarium. When she was a calf, Winter found a crab trap and began to play with the line that attaches the float at the top to the trap on the bottom. Soon, the line wrapped around her body, and the more Winter tried to get away the tighter the line became. Luckily, a fisherman found Winter all tangled up and freed her from the line. Winter was brought to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Even though the team at CMA took very good care of Winter, they could not save her tail. Today, Winter has a fake or “prosthetic” tail that she uses to stretch and exercise. She can swim with or without the tail and can even jump out of the water.

The youngest dolphin at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium is Hope. Hope was rescued as an orphaned calf. Her mother had passed away and Hope did not have any one to feed or protect her in the wild. Soon after she arrived at CMA, she began to drink from a bottle and learn from the trainers. Hope even had to learn how to eat fish!

Just like you go to school to learn science, math, and language arts, all the dolphins at CMA work with the trainers to learn things that keep them active, healthy, and happy. The people that work at the aquarium try very hard to make each day new and exciting by adding new items, games, or things to learn to the daily routine of the dolphins. By working together with the animals, CMA helps to meet each of the dolphins’ needs every day!

What are the things *you* think the dolphins at CMA need?



Dolphins & You

Name: _____

Directions: Visit the four stations around the room with your group to learn about how your needs are met. Then, with your entire class, learn about the things that dolphins need. Some are the same and are different!

Space Station

Use the measuring tape and take turns measuring your friends.

Group Member One: _____ inches

Group Member Two: _____ inches

Group Member Three: _____ inches

Group Member Four: _____ inches

Circle the tallest group member. Put a box around the shortest group member.

Have the tallest group member stand on one side of the room and hold one end of the tape. Have the shortest group member walk to the other side of the room.

How many inches across is your classroom? _____ inches

Guess how many inches long an average dolphin is: _____ inches

Guess how many inches long the dolphin tank is: _____ inches

Food Station

Use the scale in front of you to measure the lunch sack.

How much does the lunch sack weigh? _____

Guess how much food a dolphin eats for lunch? _____ pounds

Write down some of the things you like to eat for lunch below.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Water Station

Many foods contain liquid. Think of some juicy foods and write them below.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Take a section of the juicy food in front of you and squeeze as much juice out of it as you can into the measuring cup.

How much juice did you squeeze out of the food? _____

Air Station

Pick a partner. Measure how many breaths your partner takes in two minutes. Use the stopwatch to measure the time.

Make sure to breathe normally – don't hold your breath!

Group Member One: _____ breaths

Group Member Two: _____ breaths

Now switch!

Group Member Three: _____ breaths

Group Member Four: _____ breaths

Guess how many breaths a dolphin will take in two minutes: _____ breaths

Go back to your seat and wait for the rest of the class to finish!

What Dolphins Need

Listen to your teacher and compare answers with the class to fill in the blanks!

Space:

The tallest member of the class is _____. They are _____ inches tall.

An average dolphin is _____ inches long

Your classroom is _____ inches long

The tanks they swim in at Clearwater Marine Aquarium are _____ inches long.

Food:

Dolphins in the wild can eat up to _____ pounds of food per day.

Each meal time, the dolphins at CMA eat around _____ pounds.

Water:

Dolphins don't drink salt water. Instead, they get their water from the food they eat!

How much juice came out of the entire food you tested?

(Hint: add all the measurements together from the entire class to find out!)

Air:

Dolphins breathe air, just like us. They have large lungs and can hold their breath longer.

Watch the video of the dolphin breathing. How many breaths did you count?

_____ breaths