

OCEAN BLUE CREW

NeWSletter

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2019



Introduction

Ahoy matey! It's the Ocean Blue Crew from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium here to give you some nautical knowledge about our incredible ocean! To celebrate March as **Dolphin Awareness Month** and **National Dolphin Day** on April 14th, this issue will be focused on these awesome marine mammals. We will also discuss the research Clearwater Marine Aquarium does with the wild population of common bottlenose dolphins found in Clearwater Bay.

Did you know that all dolphins are whales, but not all whales are dolphins? In the February issue, we explored whales and learned that there are two main types — toothed and baleen. Dolphins are toothed whales. The largest species of dolphin, the Orca, also known as the killer whale, can grow to be 25 feet long and weigh up to 12,000 pounds! The smallest species, Maui's dolphin, is found in New Zealand. They can grow to about 5 ½ feet long and weigh about 110 pounds. Winter, Hope, PJ and Nicholas are bottlenose dolphins. They can grow between 7–13 feet long and weigh 330–1,400 pounds.

Join the Ocean Blue Crew to learn all about dolphins. Let's dive in and start with **Captain Squid Squiddley**.

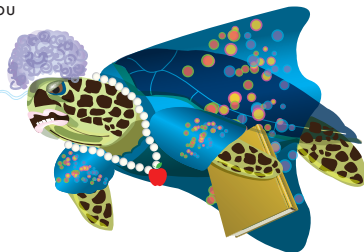


Captain Squid Squiddley

CAPTAIN'S LOG

ARR ME MATEYS! Me and me crew have sailed the ocean blue and seen many different types o' dolphins. In just the waters around the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, we know that there is a population of over 120 different common bottlenose dolphins! Our biologists are able to identify individual dolphins by taking pictures of their dorsal fins. This is the dark triangle on their back that we see at the surface of the water. Each dorsal fin is unique, just like a person's fingerprint, due to the different nicks and notches that they get on their fins throughout their lives. Once we identify the dolphin's dorsal fin, they are added to the photo catalogue of our study with an official number and nickname.

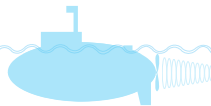
Not only do dolphins have unique dorsal fins, but they also have the ability to echolocate. This helps them find food and learn more about the environment around them by using sound waves. **Teacher Turtle** is going to tell you more about how echolocation works!



Teacher Turtle

Dolphins have an ability called echolocation, which allows them to "see" using sound. Since dolphins do not have vocal chords, like how we talk, all of the noises they make come out of their blowhole on the topside of their head. To echolocate, they will make a noise that is amplified by their rounded forehead, called the melon. This sound will go out into the environment around them as sound waves. Once the wave hits a solid object it will bounce back to the dolphin. The sound waves will enter their lower jaw, go through their ear canal, and into their brain where they can make a three dimensional image of what is around them.

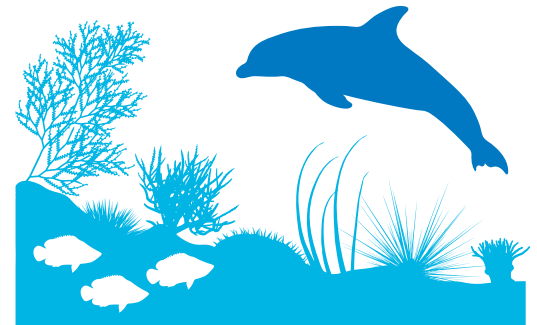
They use this to understand their environment, especially when it is too hard to see or when they are hunting. Now that you know about echolocation, **Observation Otter** will teach you a game and you can try echolocation for yourself.



Observation Otter

Now that we have learned what echolocation is, let's demonstrate what it would be like to echolocate! This **Echolocation Game** is similar to "marco polo" or hide and seek. You will need at least three people — the bigger the group, the better! One person from the group will be the dolphin and the remainder of the group will be fish. If you have a large group, you can have more than one dolphin. The game requires an area where (the fish) can hide, but the dolphins and fish can still move around. Adult supervision is necessary to make sure your dolphins do not bump into anything.

The dolphin(s) will close their eyes and the fish will hide. Once the fish have hid, the dolphins will keep their eyes closed and will clap their hands. The fish must clap back every time the dolphin claps. The fish can move around, but once they are tagged by the dolphin, they are out. Continue the game until one fish remains. Then someone else from the group can be the dolphin(s).





CHEF SHARK HERE, WITH A DOLPHINATELY TASTY RECIPE!

YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 Banana
- Other fruit like blueberries or grapes
- Cup
- Sharpie
- Sharp Knife
- Parent or guardian
- Optional: Anything else you'd like to use to decorate.



1. Have a parent or guardian cut your banana so that the bottom (not stem side) of the banana is flat and cut the stem in half lengthwise.
2. Using the sharpie, draw eyes on your banana.
3. Place your banana in the cup stem up.
4. Fill the area in the cup around the banana with other fruit and any other decorations.
5. Put a piece of fruit or other decoration in the stem of the banana.



Deputy DOLPHIN

Howdy partners! Deputy Dolphin here to tell you more about how **YOU** can keep our dolphins safe! The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) created a voluntary program for the safe and responsible viewing of wild dolphins called Dolphin S.M.A.R.T. Its goal is to create a better balance between watching these awesome, wild animals, while not interrupting their natural behaviors. Doing simple things like giving them space, not making a lot of noise (especially with boats), leaving if they seem disturbed, and not swimming with or trying to touch them, will help to keep them as wild and comfortable as possible. The most important thing is to remember to give them the respect that they deserve.



Playtime PELICAN

Captain Squid Squiddley taught you about dorsal fin identification and the nicks and notches each dorsal fin may have. Try identifying each dolphin for yourself with the dorsal fin matching game.

Match the catalog picture of each dolphin in the left column with a picture of them from a sighting in the right column.



040 Vulcan



044 Oliver



092 Lady



113 Marti



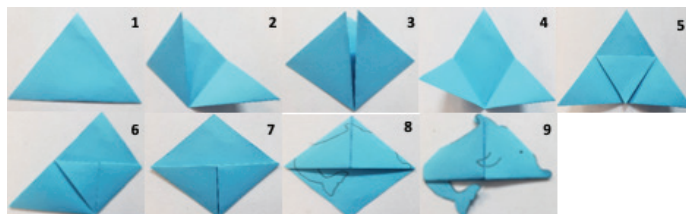
121 Tidal



NOW WE WILL MAKE OUR OWN ORIGAMI DOLPHIN CORNER BOOKMARK!

Follow the instructions below with the numbers in the photos.

1. Fold a square piece of paper in half diagonally. You may need to cut the paper to get the square shape.
2. Fold the right corner to meet the top point.
3. Repeat with the left side.
4. Unfold steps 2 and 3.
5. Fold down the front top point to meet the bottom fold. Leave the top of the back pointing up.
6. Take the right corner and fold it into the pocket made in step 5.
7. Repeat with the left side. You should have a single layer on the back and a triangle on the front.
8. Draw a picture of a dolphin making sure the forehead (melon) and part of the peduncle are made up of the folded edges.
9. Cut out your dolphin. Add an eye and pectoral fin.
10. Tape your dolphin together to keep it tight and add it onto your favorite book.



Creative Crab

YOU WILL NEED:

- A square piece of paper, 5" x 5"
- Scissors
- A pen