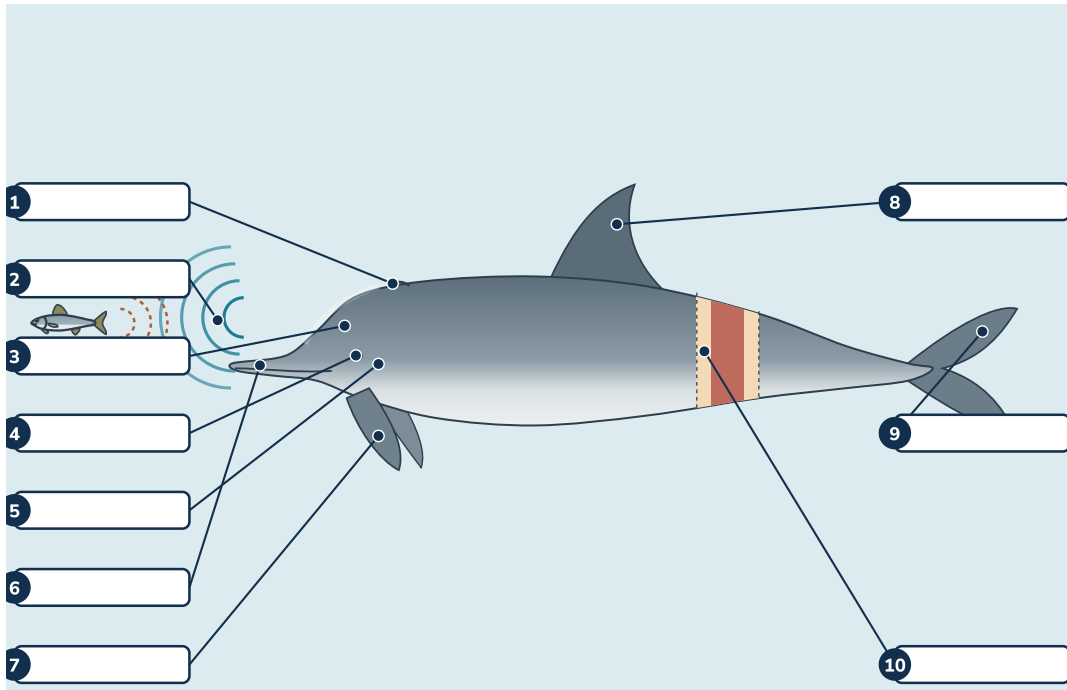


Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

Look at the diagram. Write the correct name from the word bank in each numbered box.

blowhole | blubber | dorsal fin | echolocation clicks | eye | flipper | lower jaw | melon | rostrum | tail fluke



Did you know?

- Dolphins are **mammals**: they breathe air, are warm-blooded and feed their calves milk.
- Each dolphin has a **signature whistle** that works like a name.
- Dolphins sleep with **half of their brain** at a time.
- Bottlenose dolphins can live for over **40 years**.
- The UK's **Moray Firth** pod is the most northerly resident group in the world.

A bottlenose dolphin using echolocation to find a herring. Part of the skin is cut away to show the blubber.

About Bottlenose Dolphins

Bottlenose dolphins are **toothed whales** (cetaceans), about 2 to 4 m long. They live in groups called **pods** in warm and temperate seas worldwide.

They breathe through a **blowhole** on top of the head, which closes underwater. A thick layer of **blubber** keeps them warm and stores energy.

They hunt fish and squid using **echolocation**: clicks are focused by the fatty **melon**, and echoes are picked up through the **lower jaw**.

Calves are born tail-first and stay with their mothers for 3 to 6 years.

How echolocation works

- Clicks are made in the nasal passages.
- The **melon** focuses them into a beam.
- Clicks bounce off a fish as **echoes**.
- The **lower jaw** picks up the echoes and passes them to the ears.
- The brain works out the size, shape and distance of the fish.

Mammal check: lungs, warm blood, live young, milk, a few hairs at birth.

Functions of Each Part	
Part	Function
Blowhole	
Melon	
Lower jaw	
Blubber	
Flipper	
Dorsal fin	
Tail fluke	

Hint: use the diagram, the About box and the Did you know? panel to fill in the Function column.

Answer the Questions

1 Give two reasons why a dolphin is a mammal and not a fish.

2 Explain how a dolphin uses echolocation to find a fish.

3 Why does a dolphin need a blowhole on top of its head?

4 Give two jobs of blubber.

5 How is a dolphin's tail different from a cod's tail?

6 Stretch: Dolphins hunt in murky water near river mouths. Explain why echolocation is more useful than eyesight there.