



Cabrillo
Marine
Aquarium

FISHIN' FOR F.A.Q.'S

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Fun Facts

Sperm whales are the deepest diving whales, and can hold their breath for over an hour. They dive deep to catch giant squid to eat.

The toothed whales (orca, pilot, sperm, porpoises and dolphins) also known as the odontocete whales are great predators feeding on vast quantities of squid and fish.

A group of whales is called a pod

Just for Laughs

Q. What type of whale flies?

A. Pilot whales, of course!

Toothed Whales

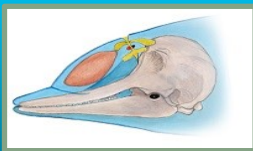
Q. How are dolphins different from fish? Both dolphins and fish have *adapted* to live their whole lives in the water, but dolphins are *warm-blooded* and have *blubber* to keep them warm. Fish are *cold-blooded* and are able to adjust to the different temperatures of the water. Most *species* of fish are also known to lay eggs and can lay hundreds of eggs in a single year, while dolphins give birth to a single baby, once every few years and feed their babies milk.

Q. Which dolphin is considered the biggest? The biggest member of the dolphin family is the *orca* whale. The larger males grow up to 32 feet and weigh up to 22,000lbs. Their black, towering *dorsal fins* can grow up to 7 feet and are unique among all whales and dolphins. At birth, orcas are 6 to 8 feet in length.



At CMA

Visit the Whale & Dolphin Exhibit Room



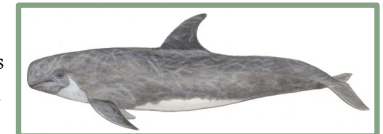
and learn how dolphins echolocate!

Q. What are the differences between dolphins and porpoises? Porpoises are smaller than dolphins and are less than 8 feet long. They are also characteristically chunkier than dolphins and have a small head, little or no beak, and a small triangular dorsal fin.

Porpoises and dolphins also have different shaped teeth. Porpoise teeth are *spade-shaped* while dolphins (like the *bottlenose dolphin*) have *conical-shaped* teeth.



Q. What is a "super-pod"? It's when a bunch of dolphin pods come together to make one huge pod for chasing down food. Large groups of *Risso's dolphins* have been spotted in super-pods of over several thousand individuals.



FAST FACTS ON A LOCAL SPECIES



Common name: Pacific white-sided dolphin

Scientific name: *Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*

Range: from the Gulf of Alaska, south along the coast of North America to Baja California

Size: 7 to 8 feet and weigh 300 pounds

Diet: feeds on squid and small schooling fish; anchovies, herring, sardines & hake

Life cycle: gestation period is 9 to 12 months

Average lifespan: average lifespan can be upwards of 35 years

Natural predators: transient orca whales and large sharks

Conservation status: not considered endangered, but are still taken for food in Japan's coastal fishing industry