

Dolphins

5

The number **5** is featured throughout Dolphins. Counting to five, finding fives, identifying sets of five, and learning to connect symbols with numerical concepts is great practice for growing children who are learning their numbers and early math skills. How many **5s** and groups of **5** can you and your child locate together?

Dd

Dolphins features the letter **d**. The “duh” sound that goes with the letter **d** is called a phoneme. Learning phonemes is an important part of learning to read. Help your child recognize and imitate this “duh” sound. Listen for it at the beginning of words, such as *dolphin*, at the end of words such as *and* or *bird*, or in the middle of words such as *middle*. Younger children often have difficulty distinguishing between a **d** sound and a **t** sound.

Where in the WORLD? ● Dolphins distribution



Reading Resource

Every title in the *Ranger Rick Zootles* series is designed to be used for fun and learning, and as a reading resource as well. The pages are written simply and address various stages of emerging literacy, and they encourage new readers to exercise their new skills at just the right level. Reading *Ranger Rick Zootles* together will provide “together time” for you and your child—and reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and early reading skills, too.

It's a ZOO out there!

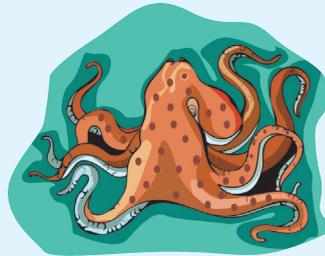
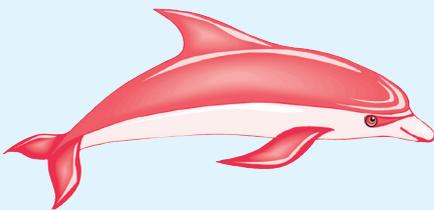
Dolphins are wonderful to watch. If you're fortunate enough to live near a zoo, aquarium, or park that has a spacious, humane dolphin habitat, your family may enjoy a trip there after reading Dolphins. You'll reinforce learning and foster careful observation skills if you look for the dolphin features and behaviors that have been mentioned:

- Watch how dolphins move their tails up and down to swim.
- Look for dolphins' blowholes, and count how long they can swim between breaths.
- Listen to and imitate any sounds you hear the dolphins make.
- Watch how dolphins use their strong bodies and tails to leap out of the water.

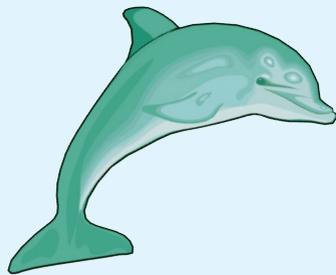
My Favorite Things

5

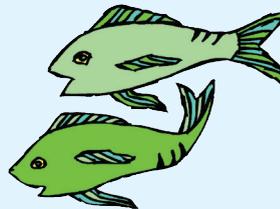
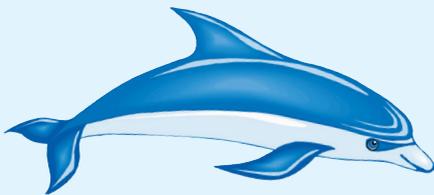
Can you help these **5** dolphins find their favorite things?



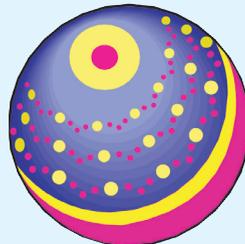
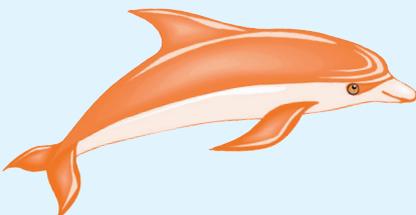
Rex the red dolphin loves seafood. Draw a line from the **red** dolphin to the **fish**.



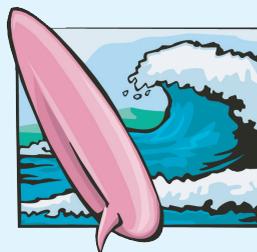
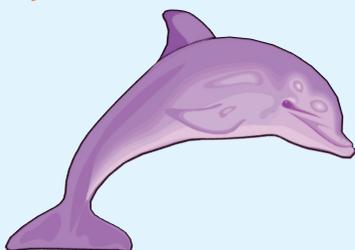
Gwendolyn the green dolphin likes to surf the waves! Draw a line from the **green** dolphin to the **surfboard**.



Belle the blue dolphin is always looking for something yummy to eat. Draw a line from the **blue** dolphin to the **octopus**.



Owen the orange dolphin swims alongside people out for a sail. Draw a line from the **orange** dolphin to the **sailboat**.



Percy the purple dolphin likes to play. Draw a line from the **purple** dolphin to the **rubber ball**.

Deep-D-Divining

Can you find
5 circles on
this page?



Dd

Dolphins starts with **D**. Can you find
5 other things that start with **D**?

Now, can you
find 5 squares
on this page?



What ELSE can we DO?

- **Dolphins and Me (p. 2–3)** Because we are both mammals, humans and dolphins have a lot in common—but we have many differences, too. Help your child discover ways we are the same and ways we are different.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Investigate the two ways humans breathe, through our mouths and through our noses. Have your child hold her nose and feel the breath come in and out of her mouth. Then have her close her mouth and feel the breath come out of her nose. Can she feel anything come out of the top of her head?

- **Down in the Deep Blue Sea (p. 4–5)** These pages introduce the concept of an ecosystem—and also offer practice in visual discrimination and counting!

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Take a walk in your backyard or a nearby park to discover what animals are your neighbors. Your child can draw a picture or take a photo to make his own nature guide.

- **What Do Dolphins Do? (p. 6–7)** The picture on page 7 shows a dolphin catching and eating a whole octopus in one gulp! Humans eat seafood too, such as fish or squid, although we often cut it into pieces and cook it.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Make your own fish sticks by combining a large can of tuna with an egg and half a cup of breadcrumbs. Form into patties and sauté until brown.

- **Sticking Together (p. 8–9)** In “The Five Dive,” five dolphins move in unison.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Recite the poem together with motions. With the first stanza, swoop your hand over your head. With the second, hold up your fingers one at a time. With the third, drop your hand down fast. Add your own creative motions for “leap,” “swim,” “jump,” “dive,” and—of course—“SPLASH!”

- **Dolphin Games (p. 10–11)** Here’s another way dolphins and humans are alike—we both like to play in the waves!

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Make a wave bottle! Fill a large, clear soda bottle one-third full with salad oil, and then fill it to the tip top with water. (Add blue food coloring for fun!) Close the bottle tightly and slowly rock it back and forth on its side to simulate ocean waves.

- **Kari’s First Day (p. 12–15)** Newborn mammals all have many things to learn. Kari, a young dolphin, must learn to surface for air, stay close to her mother, and recognize her mother’s signal.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** You and your child can make up your own secret signal that means to stay nearby. Try it when you go to the supermarket. Let your child wander down the aisle before you signal for her to scurry back.

- **Be a Zoologist (p. 16–17)** Scientists make sound and video recordings of dolphins. They watch them again and again to see what they can learn about the way dolphins move, think, and communicate.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Take a short video of your pet. Play the video over and over to discover how it moves. In what order does it move its legs when it walks? How does it leap off a chair? What sounds does it make and when? What does it do before and after it eats?

- **The Adventures of Otto and Allie (back cover)** Always observant, Otto and Allie notice that dolphins are highly social animals that often seem to do things in unison.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Play the mirror game. Stand facing your child and slowly move first one arm and then the other. See if your child can follow what you’re doing as if he were your mirror image. Take turns being the leader, and try more and more complicated movements as you get the hang of it.

