

Name _____

Delving into Dolphins: Fascinating Facts About These Aquatic Mammals

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The streamlined body shape of dolphins reduces drag in the water, allowing them to swim faster and more efficiently. This adaptation helps dolphins conserve energy and catch prey more effectively.
2. Dolphins' social behavior and communication skills are important for their survival because they rely on cooperation and coordination to hunt for food, defend against predators, and raise their young. Effective communication helps dolphins navigate their complex social networks and maintain group cohesion.
3. Humans can help protect dolphin populations and their marine habitats by supporting conservation efforts, reducing pollution and plastic waste, promoting sustainable fishing practices, establishing marine protected areas, and raising awareness about the importance of ocean conservation.
4. Climate change can impact dolphin populations and their marine ecosystems in various ways, including rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, changes in prey availability, habitat loss, and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These changes can disrupt dolphin populations' feeding and breeding habits, leading to declines in population numbers and shifts in distribution patterns.

