



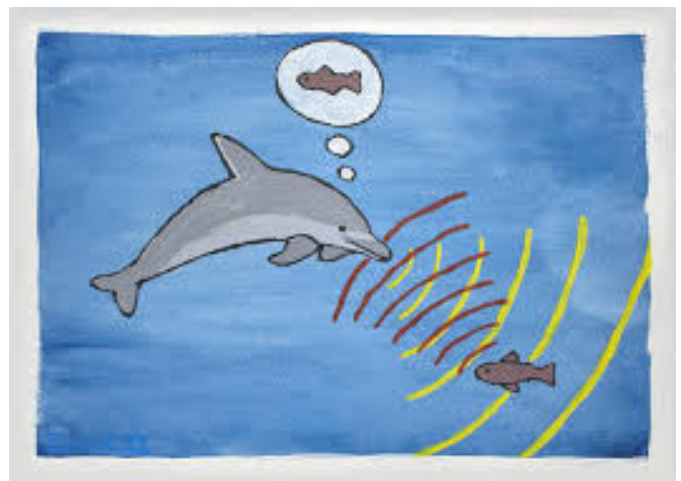
Seeing with Sound

It may come as a surprise that dolphins are mammals! Dolphins are classified as mammals because they give live births, are warm blooded, breathe through lungs and provide milk for their young. Dolphins are found all over the world, especially along the Central Coast of California. Most species of dolphin live in salt water, however there are a few places where dolphins actually live in freshwater rivers!

Dolphins are considered one of the most intelligent creatures in the world. They have the unique ability to find food, mostly fish and squid, by using echolocation. Echolocation is a built in radar that bounces sound waves off prey, and lets the dolphin know the location and size of what they are hunting.

Materials

- Tin Pan
- Two Paper Towel or Wrapping Paper Rolls
- Tape
- A friend



Step 1

Tape the tin pan on a table or flat surface so that it is on its side.



Step 2

Point one paper towel roll towards the tin and whisper something through the tube.

Step 3

The other person places the paper towel roll to his/her ear and listens for the echo.

Step 4

Try standing at different distances from the tin, and speaking in different volumes to see if the echos get louder or quieter.

Background

This activity mimics how dolphins make sounds underwater, which bounce off fish, creating echos so the dolphin knows exactly where the food is!

Sources: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/dolphins/>
<https://www.zmescience.com/science/echolocation-blind-43242/>

