



Make a splash to protect Dolphins...

The greatest threats to dolphins arise from human activities. This unit prompts discussion about the threats facing dolphins and highlights two positive steps that you can take with your students to help protect these gentle creatures.

Curriculum focus

SOSE /Science: Marine environments and ecology

English: Interviewing techniques, Research techniques

Mathematics: Data collection and analysis

Technology: Collation of collected data

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- recognise threats to dolphins and their environment
- identify strategies for reducing human impacts on marine environments
- recognise the varying degrees of understanding within the community of dolphins and their environment.

The Australian Dolphin Survey

- Encourage students to discover the varying degrees of understanding of dolphins by surveying students from other classes. Use the questions listed on the data collection sheet which can be printed out from the Dolphin Research Institute website www.dolphinresearch.org.au or the Teachers' Toolkit website www.teacherstoolkit.net.au/dolphinsurvey.
- Graph the results from each class. Discuss your findings in class. Email your results to the Dolphin Research Institute to be part of the Great Dolphin Survey. Results are due by June 5th, 2007 (World Environment Day). Australia-wide survey results will be available early in Term Three, 2007.
- Your results will play a major part in a report to be shown to local and state governments about the perceptions of Australians towards marine ecosystems.

Website resources:

www.dolphinresearch.org.au

(Dolphin Research Institute. Research and education organisation dedicated to the well-being of dolphins and their environment. Site contains valuable research and educational resources)

www.yod2007.org/en/Start_page/index.html

(Year of the Dolphin official website)

Discussion questions

1. What are the physical attributes of dolphins and how have they successfully adapted to their aquatic environment?
2. Which dolphin species can be found within Australian waters?
3. What are the main threats to dolphins and their environment?
4. How can we reduce threats to dolphins and their marine environment?

Activities

Species

Investigate the species of dolphins found within Australian waters. How are they distributed? What are the main threats to each species? What is the current conservation status of dolphins within Australian waters?

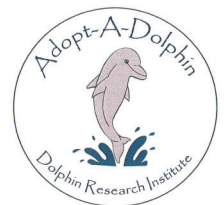
Threats

Make a collective list of threats to dolphins. How can humans reduce their impact on dolphins and their environment? What actions can we take on land to protect the dolphins' environment? Write a letter to an appropriate government minister or local newspaper voicing your concerns. Take action at school with simple activities like introducing 'rubbish free lunch' days.



ADOPT A DOLPHIN

WHY NOT GET YOUR SCHOOL INVOLVED with the Dolphin Research Institute's Adopt-A-Dolphin program? Your school will receive a kit that includes marine stickers, a ten-page activity book, a certificate, pictures and information on our individual dolphins and details about the current work of our researchers. Additionally, a quarterly newsletter will be sent to your school outlining our latest findings, trips, education programs and fun pages. All this for only \$100 per year! All proceeds go straight into our research and education programs.



DOLPHIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Dolphin Research Institute in a non-profit organisation and your support is greatly appreciated. For more information contact 1300 130 949 or visit our website at www.dolphinresearch.org.au.

