Lesson Summary

Dolphins are facing a number of issues, the main ones being by-catch by the commercial fishing industry, entanglement in fishing nets, plastic pollution, dolphin hunts and the captivity industry.



Activities

These activities are designed to enhance and expand on the key learnings from the Dolphins lesson. They can be used as part of the Lesson or assigned as research or projects.

English

LEARNING SKILLS - Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate, reflect and explanation.

Activity 1

"Most people can't see the connection between their own lives and the ocean." Paul Watson

- What does this quote mean to you?
- > Write the quote in your own words?
- > Analyse the meaning and discuss with class or in small groups.

Activity 2

For each of the following words:

- Look up the dictionary definition of the word.
- Write the meaning of the word in your own words.
- Can you find other words with the same meaning?
- Write a sentence using the word.

Captivity
Intelligent
Stimulation

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Geography

LEARNING SKILLS - Research, investigate, analyse, interpretation, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

A number of countries continue to hunt and kill dolphins, as bycatch, for food or captivity.

On a world map identify these places, what continent and oceans are they in.

Identify 3 facts about these countries:

- > Faroe Islands
- > Japan
- > France

History

LEARNING SKILLS - Research, interpretation, communicate, reasoning, explanation and critical thinking.

Activity 1

Research the history of dolphin hunts and their purpose, examples include Japan and the Faroe Islands.

Analyse whether the same reasons for the hunts are still valid today.

Are there any arguments or circumstances making the hunts no longer socially or ecologically acceptable?

Science

LEARNING SKILLS - Investigate, research, analyse, creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Impacts of pollution on apex species like dolphins.

Investigate what are the impacts of ocean pollution on dolphins. Pollution could be plastic, oil, chemicals. Identify what the implications might be for people who eat dolphins?

Activity 2 Echolocation

Dolphins use echolocation to hunt for food and navigation. This exercise demonstrates how noise bounces off objects.

- 1. Select one student, each student takes a turn, who will be blindfolded. This student will be the dolphin.
- 2. The blindfolded student is positioned in the centre of the room.
- Other students are then positioned at varying distances away from the dolphin - minimum of 1 metre. These students will be the fish, octopus or krill.
- 4. The dolphin will make a noise the student can clap or make a dolphin sound.
- 5. The surrounding students (in front of the dolphin) will then reply to the noise. It is important they all understand to communicate with the same volume when responding to the dolphin. This noise represents the echo that the dolphin would hear.
- 6. The dolphin then guesses the direction and how far away the fish/octopus/krill are. They can either tell you or move toward the sound. If they guess correctly the marine animal found will be removed from the ocean.
- 7. To dolphin can be given a set number of turns 3 5. The dolphin with the highest number of correct guesses wins.
- 8. For larger classes students can be split into groups of 5 10, making it easier for everyone to have a turn.

Social Science

LEARNING SKILLS - Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate, reflect, explanation and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Create a campaign to end dolphin captivity:

- > Investigate the issue,
- > Identify what key information you want to use.
- > Determine the reasons why people should care.
- > Create a plan for your campaign identify key messages you will use and how you will convey your message.
- > Design and create you campaign materials.

Activity 2

The Vaquita is facing extinction due to destructive fishing methods within a refuge (sanctuary). Investigate the Vaquita, what is the link with the Totoaba, and which fishing practices are used.

How would you plead the need to protect the Vaquita to the poachers catching Totoaba?

Sea Shepherd's Operation Milagro Case Study provides insight into this issue.

Arts / Media

LEARNING SKILLS - Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate and explanation.

Activity 1

Draw a dolphin or make a dolphin from recycled trash.

The drawing can be how you see dolphins or express how they are impacted by a specific issue.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We value your feedback and would be pleased to hear your thoughts about this lesson and activities. Any comments, suggestions or requests for further information can be sent to education@seashepherdglobal.org