

Lesson Summary

This lesson discusses dolphin captivity, compared to dolphins living in the wild.



Activities

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

English

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, teamwork and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Debate or write an essay on the following topic:

“Do the benefits of dolphin captivity, for research and education purposes, justify taking dolphins from their natural environment?”

Activity 2

Watch the documentary ‘Blackfish’

Discuss or write a report on the following:

- What do you think were the reasons behind Tilikum’s ‘behavioural issues’?
- What were some of the issues or behaviours displayed by the orcas as a result of captivity?
- List all the issues around captivity raised by the documentary.

Geography

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, analyse and explanation.

Activity 1

Investigate the location of dolphinariums/marine parks around the world and identify the following:

- Which countries have the highest number?
- What is the climate and environment like in these countries?
- What would be the impact on the animals kept in the dolphinariums / marine park?
- Identify what other marine animals are kept in captivity?

History

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Research the history of captivity of marine wildlife, when did it become popular, which countries, how were marine animals captured.

Write a report or create a presentation outlining your findings.

Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, analyse, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

What would be the difference in nutritional value of live fish compared to dead fish given to captive marine wildlife?

Activity 2

Create an experiment to show how noise impacts dolphins and how that varies within a concrete enclosure.

Social Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, advocate and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Create a campaign advocating for an end to dolphin captivity:

- Investigate the issue.
- Identify what key information you want to use.
- Determine 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 your campaign materials.

Activity 2

Create a social experiment to convey how it feels being in a mirrored space or on display in a glass enclosure:

Design and create your captive enclosure.

Create a questionnaire to use, to gain the reactions of your captives – how they feel, what they think the impact would be on animals in the enclosure. etc.

Ask other students to enter the enclosure – set a timeframe for how long they will remain in the enclosure.

Ask your questions and record the responses.

Write a report on your experiment:

- What did you do?
- What are the key observations from the experiment?
- Summary of answers from your captives.
- What is your opinion on captivity and its impact on marine wildlife?
- Should the captivity industry continue?

DOLPHIN CAPTIVITY LESSON ACTIVITY SHEET

TEACHING RESOURCE: SECONDARY SCHOOL (Age 11 – 16)

Arts / Media

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, advocate and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Create a display or artwork that recreates the life of a dolphin in captivity – noise bouncing off walls, no interaction and small confined space.

Activity 2

Create a poster or infographic to raise awareness about the impacts of captivity on marine wildlife.

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