



WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS

Directions: Read the following background information below and then see if you can answer the true/false questions.

There are many **animals** of all shapes and sizes roaming the world's vast oceans. There are fish, sea turtles, snails, urchins, coral, sponge and thousands more. But one of the most fascinating of all are the **marine mammals**, which include whales, dolphins and porpoises. **Cetaceans** are mammals best adapted to aquatic life. There are many species of Cetaceans—also known as **whales** (which includes porpoises and **dolphins**).

All mammals share the following traits...

Breathe air with lungs – Cetaceans do this through using their blowhole. Some have a single blowhole and others have a double opening. It looks like they shoot water out of their blowhole, but they are really just blowing water out of the way so they don't breathe it in. Though they can't breathe underwater, some whales can hold their breath for 40 minutes!

Warm-blooded - This means they keep can their bodies warm, which can be hard to do in cool ocean waters. As a result of this, Cetaceans have a blubber layer that helps keep out the cold.

Hair - Hair on a whale? Absolutely! Baby whales, called calves, are born with a bit of hair that falls off as they grow. They don't need fur because the blubber layer keeps them warm.

Nurse their young - Cetaceans are born live, usually tail first, and must nurse their mother's milk to survive. It can take years before they are able to hunt on their own.

Cetaceans, which includes 75 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises, range from less than five feet (Hector's dolphin) to up to 110 feet (Blue Whale). The Blue Whale is the biggest animal ever on Earth! They can be broken into two groups, toothed whales and baleen whales. Toothed whales, as you might have guessed, have teeth. They use them to catch their prey and swallow them whole. Whales with teeth have one blowhole and can use echolocation to help them hunt. Bottlenose dolphins have about 90 pointed teeth and are great hunters. Porpoises have teeth too, but they are flatter than the cone-shaped dolphin teeth.

Baleen whales don't have hard teeth at all. They instead have comb-like structures in their mouths called baleen that catch small fish and plankton like a net. These whales are usually bigger than their toothed cousins and have two blowholes. Baleen whales are not able to echolocate.

Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins are toothed whales that can grow 7-10 feet long and weigh 300-500 pounds. They live 35-50 years, often in group called pods. They are very intelligent and can adapt to changes made in the oceans. Unfortunately, some of these

