

British Nature Guide

Not all mammals live on land



Whales, porpoises and dolphins are mammals and just like people they breathe air. They are warm-blooded and females give birth to live young and not eggs. The mother looks after her young for several years until they are old enough to look after themselves.

Dolphins like to swim in the bow wave at the front of boats. If the water is clear you might get a really good look at them. If the water is dirty all you will see will be their backs as they come to the surface to breathe.



Sometimes we can see whales and dolphins in the seas around Britain. They are very intelligent and they are quite inquisitive.

Dolphins eat fish. Some whales eat fish and some eat krill which is a very small creature that lives in the sea. Whales have a big appetite and eat a lot of krill.

Dolphins live in family groups called pods. When whales are seen together in a group it is called a school.