

Name: _____

Date: _____

Dolphins Have Names Too

Dolphins may very well have their own names called ‘signature whistles’. Unlike humans, young dolphins “name” themselves when they are less than a year old. **Calves** listen to sounds in the environment to help them come up with their very own **unique** whistle. Scientists use underwater microphones called hydrophones and special aquatic speakers to study signature whistles. One way to study whistles is to use a technique called ‘playbacks’. Playbacks allow scientists to play whistles to dolphins and see what their responses will be. For example, if a scientist thinks a dolphin can remember an old partner, she can play the partner’s signature whistle to see if her **subject** still remembers that whistle. Dolphin signature whistles were discovered in the 1960s, but it has taken scientists years to figure out how they are learned, used and remembered. There is still much that is not known about signature whistles, including how dolphins use each other’s calls to socialize with each other, or if dolphins think about their podmates when they hear their familiar whistles. For people interested in what animals talk about, this is sure to be an important topic for years to come.

1) What is this passage about?

A) Scientists use underwater microphones to hear signature whistles.

B) Scientists discovered signature whistles in the 1960s.

C) Scientists study dolphin signature whistles.

D) Young dolphins name themselves.

3) Given the context of the sentence the word “unique” appears in, what does the word mean?

A) Loud

B) Different

C) Similar

D) Quiet

2) Given the context of the sentence the word “calves” appears in, what does the word mean?

A) Young dolphins

B) Mother dolphins

C) Scientists

D) Cows

4) Given the context of the sentence the word “subject” appears in, what does the word mean?

A) The dolphin that is being studied

B) The old partner dolphin

C) The scientist

D) Something studied in school