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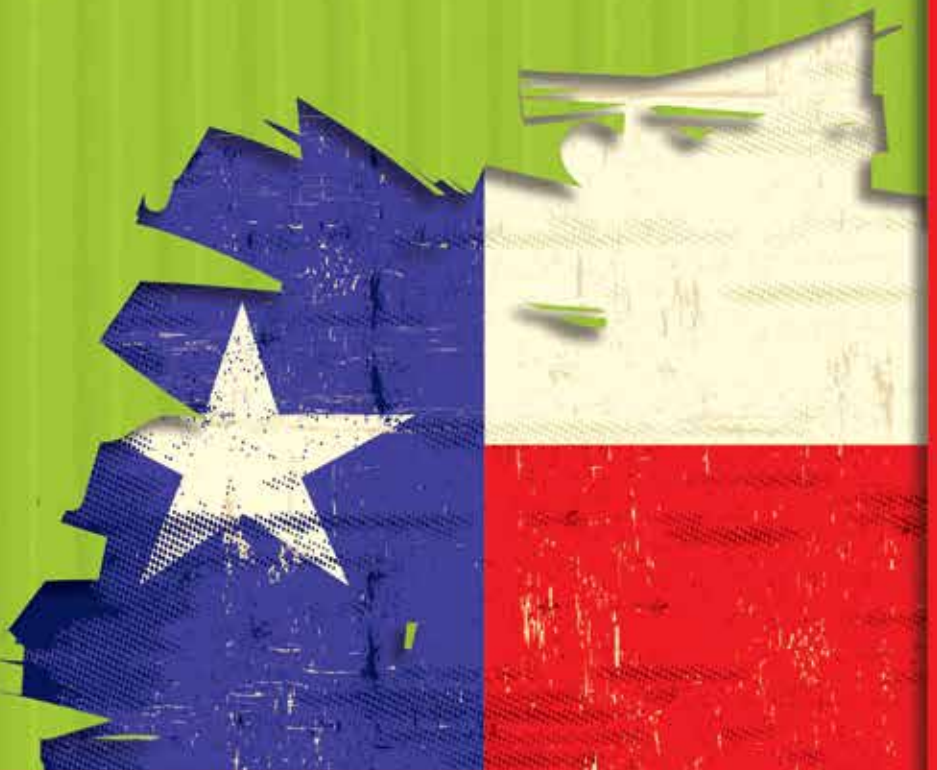
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**STAAR**  
**Reading**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Dolphins Call Each Other By Name

**Directions:** Read this text and respond to the questions on pages 41–43.

- 1 Scientists studied bottlenose dolphins in Florida. They found that dolphins have their own names for each other. The dolphins make up these names. They use whistles and other noises to communicate. Like people, these animals can recognize specific names.
- 2 Vincent Janik of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland led the team of scientists. The researchers reported their findings in a science journal. It was in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
- 3 For a long time, scientists have known that dolphins “talk” to each other. Dolphins use whistles, clicks, and calls. It was also known that dolphins could recognize each other from these sounds. Researchers assumed that dolphins recognized each other’s voices—just as people do. This new study proves that the animals use names to identify each other. Each name is a unique whistle.



*Dolphins use special whistles and noises to “talk” to each other.*

**GO ON** 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dolphins Call Each Other By Name *(cont.)*

- 4 To test this, Janik and his team temporarily captured 14 wild dolphins. They recorded their name calls. Then the scientists made new recordings of the names. In the new recordings, they changed the sound of the whistles. This was done to disguise each dolphin's "voice." When the changed recordings were played, the dolphins responded to the names of their relatives and close group members. They ignored the names of dolphins they did not know.
- 5 Bottlenose dolphins, like other dolphins, are very smart. They have large brains and can quickly learn tasks. In the wild, they live in pods. These groups grow and change. Dolphins' distinctive whistles help them to find a pod member or to cry for help. This is much faster than trying to see through the dark underwater world.
- 6 Coming up with individual calls requires vocal learning. It's a skill that's seen in few animals. Of course, humans can do it. So can elephants, bats, and some types of seals. This recent study suggests that young dolphins, or calves, come up with their own names based on the whistles of the adult dolphins around them. They learn to use whistles to signal to each other. But this is not the same as having a complete language. As far as scientists know, only humans have that.
- 7 Bottlenose dolphins are not the only chatty dolphins. Scientists have found what could be signature whistles in spotted, white-sided, and dusky dolphins, too.



*Two bottlenose dolphins "chatting" together.*

**GO ON** 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Dolphins Call Each Other By Name *(cont.)*

**Directions:** Read each question carefully. Record the correct answer on your answer sheet.

- 1 The author most likely wrote this article to —
- A describe the difference between bottlenose and spotted dolphins
  - B entertain readers with what dolphins do in their spare time
  - C persuade readers to work with dolphins and learn their names
  - D inform readers about dolphins' communication
- 
- 2 Which detail from the selection suggests that bottlenose dolphins are smart?
- F Dolphins' whistles help them to locate friends and family members.
  - G Dolphins' brains are rather large, enabling them to learn tasks quickly.
  - H Dolphins come up with their own name based on others' whistles.
  - J Dolphins only respond to the names of relatives and group members.
- 
- 3 Which part of the article best helps the reader to understand how scientists proved the way in which dolphins identify each other?
- A The title
  - B The illustration
  - C Paragraph 3
  - D Paragraph 4

A black arrow pointing to the right with the words "GO ON" written in white capital letters inside it.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dolphins Call Each Other By Name *(cont.)*

- 4 Read this dictionary entry for the word distinctive.

<p><b>distinctive</b> \di-'stin(k)-tiv\; adjective</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. serving to distinguish</li><li>2. having or giving style</li><li>3. different in a way that is easy to notice</li><li>4. interesting because of an unusual quality</li></ol>
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Which meaning of distinctive is used in paragraph 5?

- F Meaning 1
- G Meaning 2
- H Meaning 3
- J Meaning 4

- 
- 5 According to the article, how do dolphins communicate?

- A Dolphins use whistles, clicks, and calls.
- B They say the name of the dolphin they're calling.
- C Dolphins swim close to each other to communicate.
- D They use the vibration from slapping their tails in the water.

- 
- 6 Which sentence from the text explains why dolphins communicate?

- F *This recent study suggests that young dolphins, or calves, come up with their own names based on the whistles of the adult dolphins around them.*
- G *They found that dolphins have their own names for each other.*
- H *Dolphins' distinctive whistles help them to find a pod member or to cry for help.*
- J *For a long time, scientists have known that dolphins "talk" to each other.*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dolphins Call Each Other By Name *(cont.)*

- 7 Which phrase helps the reader understand the meaning of the word assumed in paragraph 3?
- A *For a long time*
  - B *Dolphins use whistles*
  - C *could recognize each other*
  - D *new study proves*
- 
- 8 Which of the following is the main idea of the article?
- F Dolphins can talk.
  - G Dolphins are smart.
  - H Dolphins call each other by name.
  - J Dolphins are endangered.

