

Dolphins know the best way to catch fish

Dolphins are much more intelligent than humans when it comes to fishing: they don't even need a net. Watch this video to see how they do it.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. to beat
2. a tail
3. to stir up
4. the seabed
5. to mushroom
6. mud
7. a fishing net
8. tight

Definition

- a. to move something which was previously calm and still
- b. not loose; without much free space
- c. to increase or expand very quickly
- d. an instrument used for catching fish, similar to a bag with a lot of tiny holes in it
- e. the ground at the bottom of the sea
- f. to hit repeatedly
- g. the part of an animal's body which extends from the back of its body
- h. soil or dirt which is wet

Task 1

Circle the best answer.

1. Dolphins know that it is easier to catch fish when the fish are
 - a. deep in the water.
 - b. not in the water.
 - c. under the surface of the water.
2. The dolphin stirs up the mud by
 - a. hitting the seabed with its nose.
 - b. hitting the seabed with its tail.
 - c. swimming in a circle.
3. The narrator says that once the mud is in the water, it
 - a. changes colour.
 - b. disappears quickly.
 - c. expands.
4. The narrator compares the circle of mud to a
 - a. piece of fishing equipment.
 - b. mouth.
 - c. swimming pool.
5. Once the circle of mud has been created, it then becomes
 - a. bigger.
 - b. darker in colour.
 - c. smaller.
6. The dolphins eat the fish when the fish
 - a. jump from the water because they are confused.
 - b. try to escape the circle of mud.
 - c. try to find oxygen.

Task 2

Write the correct word to complete the sentences.

1. Fish out of water are much to catch.
2. By her tail down hard, this bottlenose dolphin stirs up the seabed.
3. By swimming in a circle, she creates a of mushrooming mud.
4. A fishing net made of
5. As the net pulls and, the fish are trapped.

Discussion

What do you think of the way the dolphins catch fish in this video? Can you describe other clever techniques which animals use to catch their food?

Transcript

These dolphins have worked out that fish out of water are much easier to catch.

By beating her tail down hard, this bottlenose dolphin stirs up the seabed.

And by swimming in a circle, she creates a ring of mushrooming mud around a shoal of fish: a fishing net made of mud.

As the net pulls tighter and tighter, the fish are trapped until there's only one way out – straight into the mouths of the waiting dolphins.

Answers

Preparation task

1. f
2. g
3. a
4. e
5. c
6. h
7. d
8. b

Task 1

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. a
5. c
6. b

Task 2

1. easier
2. beating
3. ring
4. mud
5. tighter (and) tighter