



Welcome to the Dolphin Project

The dolphin project takes place in the 10,000 Islands which is in South Florida. It's a large mangrove forest and includes bays, estuaries and coastal habitats. The team studies the bottlenose dolphin population for education and research.

The project uses photo-identification to tell each dolphin apart. Every dorsal fin gets nicks and scratches as the dolphin grows up, and then looks different from any other dolphin. A close up photo is taken of the dorsal fin and the team can figure out who they are observing in the wild.

Area 1 of the project has between 70-80 local dolphins identified. For each sighting the team records the data. Some of the things recorded are how many dolphins sighted, their behavior, the time and much more.



1. The dolphin project is located in the _____ Islands.
2. **Multiple choice.** What are the 2 reasons we study bottlenose dolphins?
 - a. For tv and magazines
 - b. For education and research
 - c. For bedtime stories and songs

3. **Unscramble the words.**

Every dorsal fin gets some _____ and scratches as the dolphin grows up.

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4. **Fill out the data sheet after reading about this sighting.**

"We've just sighted dolphins at the sea wall! It's 9:30 AM. There are 3 dolphins, a mom and calf and an older male. The male is possibly feeding. The calf is playing with the leaves. The boat is in about 12 feet of water." Says the Naturalist James!

Time: _____ Location: _____ Water depth: _____

of dolphins total _____ # of calves _____

Circle the behaviors: Mill, travel, play, social, possibly feeding, feeding, and leaping