

MILITARY ANIMALS

Lesson Plan

Dolph-Inference

Lesson Plan for *Mine-Hunting Animals*

Grade 5

Objective

To help students make inferences based on information in a text about dolphins.

Things Needed

- *Mine-Hunting Animals* book
- Access to the “Mine-Hunting Animals” page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/military-animals/mine-hunting>

Before the Activity

Open the “Mine-Hunting Animals” page in your web browser. Pull up the “Explore Links” tab and click on the link for the National Geographic Kids article, “Bottlenose Dolphin.” You can also find the article here: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/bottlenose-dolphin/>

Activity

Read Chapter 1 (“Important Mine Hunters”) of the *Mine-Hunting Animals* book out loud as a class. Then ask the following question:

- According to this chapter, how do dolphins find mines? (Answer: Dolphins use sonar to find mines. A dolphin makes clicking sounds. When the sounds hit something, they bounce back to the dolphin. The dolphin can sense if the thing is metal. Dolphins put markers on metal objects so humans can find them later.)

Dolphins work with humans. To learn more about this process, read Chapter 4 (“Ocean Animals”). Then ask the following questions:

- According to Chapter 4, how do sailors work with dolphins? (Answer: Navy sailors are nearby to help dolphins stay safe and focused. The sailors pick up signals from the markers the dolphins place on the mines. They can follow the signals to find and destroy the mines.)
- According to Chapter 1, how do trainers work with dolphins? (Answer: Trainers send the



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dolphins out to look for mines. The dolphins swim back to the trainers after finding mines. When that happens, the trainers give dolphins rewards.)

Read the “Bottlenose Dolphin” article out loud and ask the following questions to help students explore how a dolphin’s natural abilities help it find mines:

- According to this article, what does a dolphin’s sonar system tell it about objects in the water? (Answer: The echoes tell the dolphin “the shape, size, speed, distance, and location of the object.”)
- How might this sense help dolphins while they are working? (Sample Answers: Dolphins can tell the difference between mines and other metal objects. Dolphins can sense a mine before they get too close.)
- What does the article say about dolphins’ behavior? (Answer: Dolphins are very playful and social. They form friendships and play with other dolphins.)
- How might being social help dolphins be trained by soldiers? (Sample Answers: Dolphins can develop bonds with their trainers. Dolphins might enjoy training or think it’s a game.)
- According to the article, how fast can dolphins swim? (Answer: They can go 22 miles per hour.)
- How might swimming fast help dolphins do their job? (Sample Answers: They can swim quickly back to their trainers after they find mines. They can swim through and search a large area in a short time.)

Evaluation

Were students able to answer the questions about dolphins? Could they make reasonable inferences about how dolphins’ natural abilities help them find mines?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 5 (RI 5.1, 5.7).

