

## **1. Ocean Life**

Have you ever visited the ocean? If you haven't, there is a good chance that at some point in your life that you will. We are going to introduce you to some creatures that don't live in lakes or streams. They only live in the ocean!

This is a Bottlenose Dolphin. Sometimes dolphins live in zoo's and entertain people, but they are just as fun and entertaining to watch in the wild! Dolphins live worldwide in warm or tropical waters.

Similar to a bat, dolphins use echolocation to navigate and hunt. During *echolocation*, the dolphin bounces high pitched sounds off of objects, and listens for the echoes.

Did you know that a group of dolphins is called a pod?

This is a stingray. Stingrays are actually fish. They don't have bones in their bodies. Instead they have cartilage, similar to what you feel when you push on the tip of your nose. They spend much of their lives in shallow water, mostly near the ocean floor where they hide from predators and watch for prey to swim by.

This is a jellyfish. It may look like a pile of slime, but it's a living creature that has been around for 650 million years. Jellyfish are considered *plankton*. They have limited swimming abilities. Instead, the currents often control their movements. Jellyfish are about 98% water. Some are very small and others can grow to be almost 7 feet long, with tentacles up to 100 feet long!

This is a Green Sea Turtle. Sea Turtles live in all oceans except in the arctic circle, because it's too cold there. Most species of sea turtles are endangered. Sometimes sea turtles are caught in fishing nets and die as they are unable to surface to breathe. Water pollution and habitat destruction are also hard on sea turtle populations. Conservation efforts are helping to protect these amazing creatures.

Oceans are full of life and sure are a fun place to visit!

Source: [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)