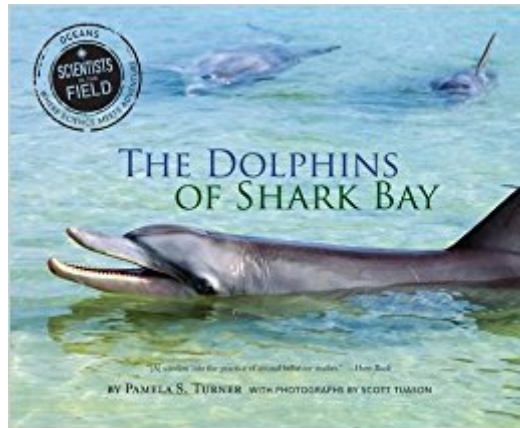


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# The Dolphins Of Shark Bay (Scientists In The Field Series)



## Synopsis

Ride alongside the author Pamela S. Turner and her scientific team and meet a cast of dolphin characters large enough (and charismatic enough) to rival a Shakespearean play—Puck, Piccolo, Flute, and Dodger among them. You will fall in love with this crew, both human and finned, as they seek to answer the question: just why are dolphins so smart? And what does their behavior tell us about human intelligence, captive animals, and the future of the ocean? Beautiful photos of dolphins in their natural habitat and a funny, friendly, and fast-paced text make this another winner in the Scientists in the Field series. Pair this with other intriguing stories of real-world science, at [www.sciencemeetsadventure.com](http://www.sciencemeetsadventure.com).

## Book Information

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The Shark Bay Dolphin Project, under the direction of biologist Janet Mann, is the subject of this latest book in the acclaimed Scientists in the Field series. Dolphins' uncommonly developed intelligence is undisputed fact, but Mann's field research is unique in that most other observations occur in captivity. Studying dolphins in their natural habitat off the coast of western Australia, Mann's team has witnessed them using tools, socializing their young, developing hunting strategies, and forming alliances. Her work goes far beyond proving the fact that

dolphins are smart; she seeks to discover the reasons for the development of their higher brain functions. Mann not only provides excellent examples of scientific thinking through the formulation and testing of hypotheses, she also serves as an authentic and engaging role model for girls considering careers in science. Using the team's intimate knowledge of the wild cetaceans, Turner treats the dolphins as lively characters unto themselves in this affecting and vividly photographed work of nonfiction. Grades 5-8. --Erin Anderson --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"An exemplary addition to an always thought-provoking series." •Kirkus, starred review "Mann not only provides excellent examples of scientific thinking through the formulation and testing of hypotheses, she also serves as an authentic and engaging role model for girls considering careers in science. . . [An] affecting and vividly photographed work of nonfiction." •Booklist "Readers come away with an amazing, if sometimes blurred vision of a culture different from their own . . . A challenging, attractive eye-opener." •School Library Journal, starred review "There's no shortage of fascinating science in the breezy and engaging narrative. . . While being deliberately anti-mythical about dolphins, the book conveys the wonder of learning more about the intricacy of another species, and readers will be won over by both the dolphins and the science." •Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review "The detailed descriptions of the day-to-day activities of the dolphins •all of whom are given names and have distinct personalities •provide a window into the practice of animal behavior studies." •The Horn Book Magazine

This is really a glorious book from a great series. Others have praised it already, so I'll just make a few notes. Pamela Turner writes very well, and it's neat how the series sends an author on location and they report back about the setting, the lives of the biologists, as well as the reason they're all there, in this case the dolphins. A sample of one of her pleasant passages: "Janet shuts off the engine and lets the Pomboo [boat] drift. Luckily for us, the rain clouds are moving inland to dampen the local kangaroos." The topics covered are compelling: whether dolphins have culture, innovative ways they find food, relations between males and females, parents and kids, and how dolphins group themselves. The end touches upon dolphins in captivity and the ethical questions raised in a brief, non-judgmental, thought-provoking fashion. Splendid photos too, as usual. Highly recommended.

My 8 year old son is reading this each night. He is learning a lot about dolphins and sharks. It is a great school reader. It may be on the difficult side for 8 year olds, but he is enjoying it.

Outstanding book. The students in my class loved it.

Perfect gift for my granddaughter...Thank you

Great for a young reader interested in the ocean.

love!

Gaven as a gift to 10 year old having used age guide.ines given,but feel it is a bit technical for most 10 year olds. Great material otherwise.

I love this book about wild dolphins with strange talents living near Monkey Mia in Australia! In fact, some of the dolphins are so smart that they have learned to come up near the beaches to take food from special people who are allowed to feed them. These dolphins are smart because of their big brains which are second only to human brains. They are even smarter than chimpanzees! But dolphins didn't always have such big brains. They weren't even dolphins at one point. They have evolved into the whales we know today (dolphins are toothed whales) from weird creatures called Ambulocetus natans (means walking whale) that had legs a really long time ago! A woman named Janet and her team have been studying these dolphins for many years. When they see a new dolphin or calf (baby dolphins are called calves), they give it a name. They can tell the dolphins apart by their dorsal fins. The dolphin's fin is photographed, labeled, and put on a "dolphin cheat sheet" that the team uses to identify and track the dolphins. Just one of the many talents these smart dolphins have is called sponging. The dolphin scoops up a sponge from the ocean floor, balances it on its beak, and then scrounges around the channel bottoms to flush fish out. Lunch! The sponge helps to protect their beaks (rostrum), and that makes the sponge a tool. It takes a really smart creature to use tools. Sponging dolphins usually have a mom that was a sponger, too. In addition to sponging, these smart dolphins do their "beach hunting", "kerplunking" (using their tails to scare small fish out of hiding), and can even catch a three foot trevally (a type of fish) by snapping its neck

on the sea bottom! While watching the dolphins, Janet and her team realized that the male dolphins swim in groups that they call *alliances*. These male alliances swim in close to females in order to herd them for mating. This didn't really surprise Janet. They were surprised, though, to learn that the male dolphins also have second-order alliances and third-order alliances. This behavior was just as surprising as learning that the female dolphins used sponges as tools! While observing these alliances, Janet learned that some of the males are quite smart, some are good herders, and some are just jerks. These dolphins definitely weren't what they always seemed! Older kids that love dolphins, or kids who do not know much about dolphins would like this book a lot. I loved the way the author explained everything clearly. I really liked the cuteness of the illustrations and the photos. Some of the photos were very cute, and some were just pretty.

Murphy M. (7yo)(Unpaid) Reviewer for the San Francisco Book Review

A note from Murphy's mom: My daughter has been in love with dolphins since she was 4yo and has read just about everything related to dolphins that she can get her hands on. This is one of the few books that had tons of information, beautiful photos, and was written clearly enough for a 7yo to understand, yet it wasn't 'dumbed down'. It's a great book. My only regret is that we can't afford to visit Monkey Mia ourselves. This book is the next best thing!

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