

What is strange about the way dolphins sleep?



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Do turtles breathe when they hibernate?



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What is strange about a manatee's upper lip?



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Are there baby girl clownfish and baby boy clownfish?



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What happens to a bighorn sheep if you move it to a new area?



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Gorillas are a lot like humans. But can they swim like we can?



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How do you tell the difference between a black rhino and a white rhino?



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Do all zebras look alike?



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What happens if you put a dry sea otter in a pool of water?



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A manatee's upper lip comes in two pieces!

A manatee is a sea creature. It looks like a large, walrus with a fat face.

Manatees have an upper lip that looks like it has been cut in half. But the manatee was born that way. The manatee can move each side of its lip a different direction. One half can move up while the other moves down. Manatees use their lips like fingers when they feed. The lips will pull the leaves it eats toward its mouth!

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Turtles do breathe when they hibernate, but just barely.

Turtles don't like the cold. When it gets too cold a turtle hibernates. They dig a hole in the ground and crawl in. Then they push dirt over themselves until they are completely covered. There isn't much air in the hole, so turtles don't breathe a lot. If they did they would use up all their air.

Turtles hibernate during the winter, or however long it takes for the air to warm up. If it needs to, a turtle can hibernate for up to a year.

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Only half of a dolphin sleeps at one time!

Dolphins only sleep for 3 or 4 hours a night. But often only half a dolphin will sleep at one time. They shut down half their brain and close one eye. That side sleeps. The other side stays awake to watch for predators or other danger. After a while they let the other side of their body go to sleep.

When dolphins sleep they don't move much. They just float on top of the water where they can breathe. But if danger comes, both sides will wake up and the dolphin will race away.

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Gorillas don't swim like us. In fact, they can't swim at all!

Gorillas have a lot of muscle in their body. People have a lot of fat. Fat is lighter than water and helps you float. Muscle is heavier and makes you sink. Gorillas have very little fat, but a lot of muscle. If a gorilla falls in the water it will drown.

Because of this, gorillas in Africa stay in their own area. They will never try to cross a river to join the gorillas on the other side.

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If you move a bighorn sheep to a new area, it will starve to death!

Bighorn sheep spend the summer in the mountains and the winter down in the valley. There is less snow and more food there.

Every year the bighorns will follow the leader to their regular feeding grounds. Young bighorns learn the way from the older bighorns. This happens generation after generation.

If you move a group of bighorns to a new area, they don't know how to find the feeding grounds, so they stay in one area until they have eaten all the grass. Then they starve to death.

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All clown fish are born boys.

All clown fish start out as boys. But when several clown fish move into the same anemone, the biggest clown fish will turn into a girl. She will become the mother clown fish.

The second biggest clown fish will become the father clown fish. All the smaller clown fish in the group will stay teenage boys.

Sometimes two clown fish of the same size will move into an anemone. Then they will fight over who gets to be the girl. The one who wins turns into a girl. Then she gets bigger!

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If you put a dry sea otter in water it will sink and drown!

Sea otters live in the water. They are covered with a soft fur that traps air bubbles and helps to keep them afloat. But if the fur gets completely dried out, it won't trap the air bubbles. Then there will be nothing to help the sea otter float and it will sink and drown.

Sea otters are very careful of their fur. If a sea otter's fur gets dirty, it can die. That's why they spend one or two hours every day washing themselves.

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No two zebras look alike!

Every zebra has stripes that are a bit different from any other zebra. It's like human fingerprints; no two are exactly the same.

Zebras use their stripes to tell each other apart. When a baby zebra is first born the mother will keep it away from the herd. She and the baby stay alone for a couple of days. This gives the baby a chance to learn what his mother looks like. Then he can find her among all the other animals in the herd.

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You look at its lips!

Both black rhinos and white rhinos are really gray. Black rhinos have an upper lip that sticks out. White rhinos have a flat lip. This is because of what they eat.

The black rhino likes to eat leaves from bushes and shrubs, so his upper lip moves. This lets him hook his top lip over a branch so he can strip the leaves from it.

The white rhino likes to eat grass, so his upper lip is flat to help him get his teeth close to the ground.

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