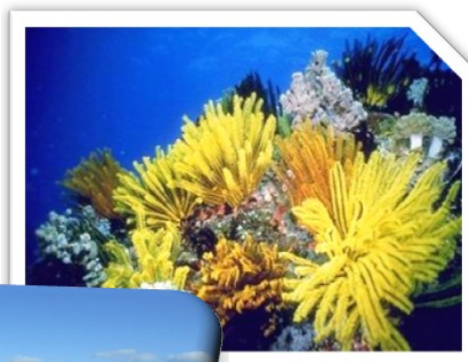




Expeditions on water

The SESAME project :

Get acquainted with life in the sea on-board a research vessel! Step into scientists' shoes and embark on an oceanographic cruise, ready to sample and analyze your data in the laboratory! Together with your classmates, imagine and create a travel diary or a newspaper about an oceanographic cruise using the previous cruise diaries and the other resources available on the SESAME website!



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The oceanographic mission ...

A few weeks ago, a team of scientists came back from the Mediterranean sea ... they had an extraordinary mission about the life of the dolphins ... and about much more sea creatures. We were stunned when they told us the whole story of their expedition.

Seems like it was a great travel ... in this newspaper we describe this wonderful trip. Hope you will like it ... !!!



A stunning experiment ...

The experiment is about putting a chip on a dolphin and in this way to study him ... his travel ... his life from dry land. The scientists told us that they looked for a young dolphin to put the chip on. When they caught it they fixed the chip on his back flipper paying attention to not harm him. After this operation they released him and they started to test the chip ... to see if it works correctly. After two hours of tests they finally said what we were expecting ... the experiment is a great success . From now on they will be able to study the dolphins from dry land without worry.



Now ... let's see one of the scientists opinion : "it was a great experience ... I was one of those who operated with the chip on the dolphin. I cannot describe in words how awesome is to know that you are tacking part at an experiment like this ... even if it seems little ... it is a really big thing to fix a new method of studying the life of the sea creatures. "

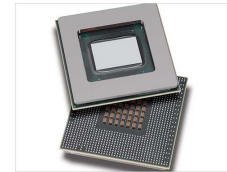


Photo of the day ...

"We had the opportunity to be witnesses to the birth of a baby dolphin ... it was extraordinary" says one of the scientists. Well ... I think it has to be really wonderful to see and to capture this event. The pictures taken by the crew are beautiful ... these are the photos of the day.



The birth of a baby dolphin ... extraordinary ...



Plankton ...

Plankton consist of any drifting organisms that inhabit the pelagic zone of oceans, seas, or bodies of fresh water. Plankton are defined by their ecological niche rather than their phylogenetic or taxonomic classification. They provide a crucial source of food to more familiar aquatic organisms such as fish.

Plankton are found in oceans, seas and lakes. However, the local abundance of plankton varies horizontally, vertically and seasonally.

The primary cause of this variability is the availability of light. All plankton ecosystems are driven by the input of solar energy and this confines primary production to surface waters, and to geographical regions and seasons when light is abundant. A secondary cause of variability is the availability of nutrients.

Zooplankton are initially the sole prey item for almost all fish larvae as they use up their yolk sacs and switch to external feeding for

nutrition. Fish species rely on the density and distribution of zooplankton to coincide with first-feeding larvae for good survival of larvae, which can otherwise starve. Natural factors and man-made factors can strongly affect zooplankton density and distribution, which can in turn strongly affect the larval survival, and therefore breeding success and stock strength, of fish species.

Scientist interview ...

It was a great trip. I was moved by the beautiful creatures which were living in the sea: dolphins, fishes, sharks, and many others... Me and a group of biologists are studying a group of dolphins from Mediterranean sea. It was really fascinating, and in the



same time spectacular because I had the occasion to see with my own eyes the birth of a baby dolphin. Also it was very tiresome because I had to do my work and complete a lot of papers about the life of a dolphin, to calculate the number of population of dolphins which were living in the Mediterranean and so on ... And when we thought that our trip cannot be more interesting we thought to put a chip on a dolphin and to study his travel and his life from dry land.



The youngsters on land communicate with the scientists at sea

The youngsters on land are very interested in the work of the scientists at sea ... they even communicate.

A group of students from Romania, Constanta, sent two months ago a message to the crew of scientists at sea. The students said that they heard about their successful experiment ... they congratulated the crew hoping at more and more successful experiments like this one.



The seashore in 50 years ... vision of 16 years old teens ...



It is our duty as the young generation to protect Mother Nature and conserve its sacred elements. So ... in our vision we hope

for a better world where the nature will be clean ... seashores ... like in paradise, because we are the future and we will clean up all this mess. The world will be a better place ... people will be better ... between nature and people there will be a beautiful friendship. So ... you can be sure that the seashores, in our vision, are like heaven ... in 50 years ... sand will be like gold ... no more garbage ... clean water ... no more whales, sharks and dolphins caught in trawls.



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Whales, the marine mammals

Whales are widely classed as predators, but their food ranges from microscopic plankton to very large fish. Males are called bulls; females, cows. The young are called calves.

As mammals, whales breathe air and must surface to get oxygen. This is done through a blowhole. Many whales also exhibit other surfacing behaviours such as breaching and tail slapping.

Whales are frequently portrayed in literature as violent creatures who attack shipping and kill or eat sailors, despite overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary. This is especially true in literature written prior to the modern scientific study of the creatures, or in period literature. A common whale-themed plot device concerns mariners who are swallowed whole by a whale, and find themselves trapped alive in the creature's belly. In some instances, the victims of these encounters are able to escape, often by causing the whale sufficient gastronomic distress that it is forced to expel them; in other such occurrences in fiction, the victim is doomed.

Whales include the blue whale, the largest living animal. Orcas, colloquially referred to as "killer whales", and pilot whales have *whale* in their name but for the purpose of classification they are actually dolphins.



The research vessel is continuing its work ... studying the life underwater ..

The ship will go to study the life in the Hole of the Marians because there are a lot of bodies that don't need light.



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