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ANiMALS HELPiNG A MAN

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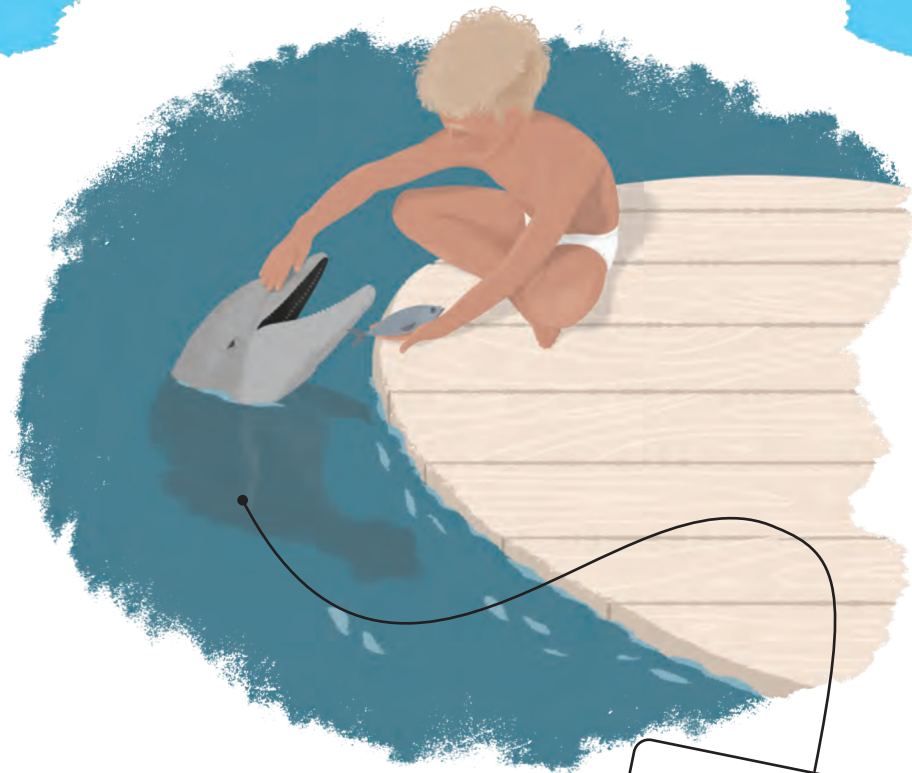


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6 DOLPHiNS

They whistle, sing and laugh – indeed, they love communication of all kinds. Humans have had a fascination with these merry sea- and ocean-going swimmers since ancient times. As our ancestors believed that a dolphin was a reincarnated god, it is hardly surprising that a much-revered Greek deity – Apollo, god of the Sun – was dedicated to this creature.

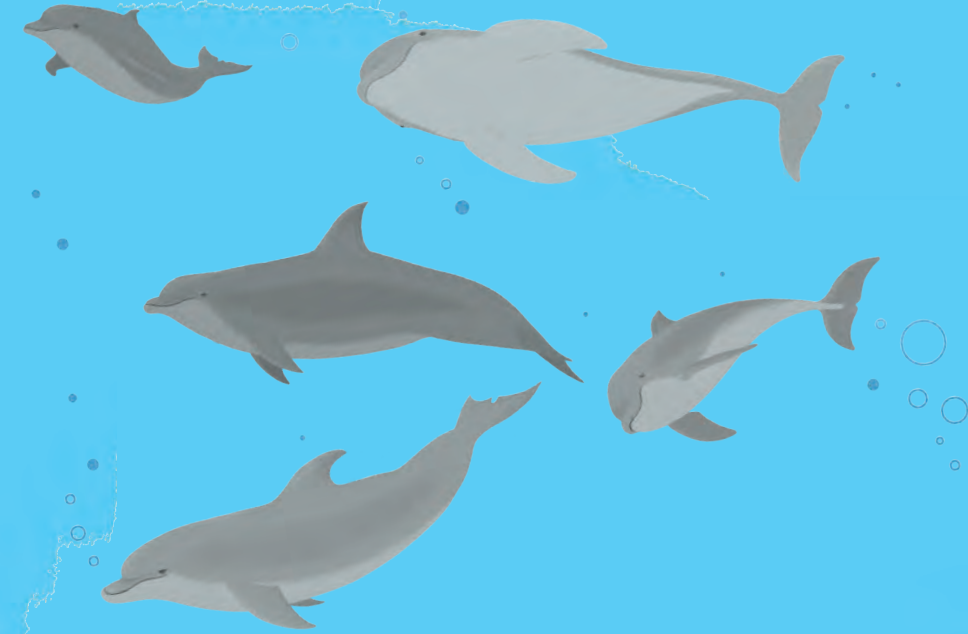


Without dolphins the crew of this shipwreck would parish in the sea.



COME AND STROKE ME

Dolphins enjoy human attention and like to be stroked. In the 1970s, several dolphins settled in Australia's Shark Bay, where they would literally reach out to curious human visitors - who naturally were very keen to stroke them and throw fish into their mouths. As the intelligent, kindly dolphins wished to be in no one's debt, they returned the favour by offering the humans fish they had caught.



HELP ME, i'M DROWNING!

We will perhaps never know for sure whether these sensational events truly happened. Perhaps they were produced by the vivid imaginations of ancient chroniclers. But we know for sure that in recent times dolphins used their bodies to push a drowning swimmer into shallow waters.



TRUE OR FALSE?

Sources from antiquity tell us that these friendly, charming creatures saved shipwrecked, drowning sailors and seafarers more than once, teaming up to carry them ashore and drive away blood-thirsty sharks.

6 DOLPHiNS

THE WORLD'S BEST NAViGATORS

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a dolphin would swim alongside naval ships, accompanying them through dangerous waters, making their journey as smooth, fluent and safe as possible. This dolphin became known as Jack. Every time sailors in the waters of New Zealand spotted Jack swimming up to their ship, they would be mightily relieved. Sadly, this super-intelligent animal died in 1903 – after 40 years of loyal, voluntary service for humankind. He was killed by a shot from the gun of a drunken passenger.

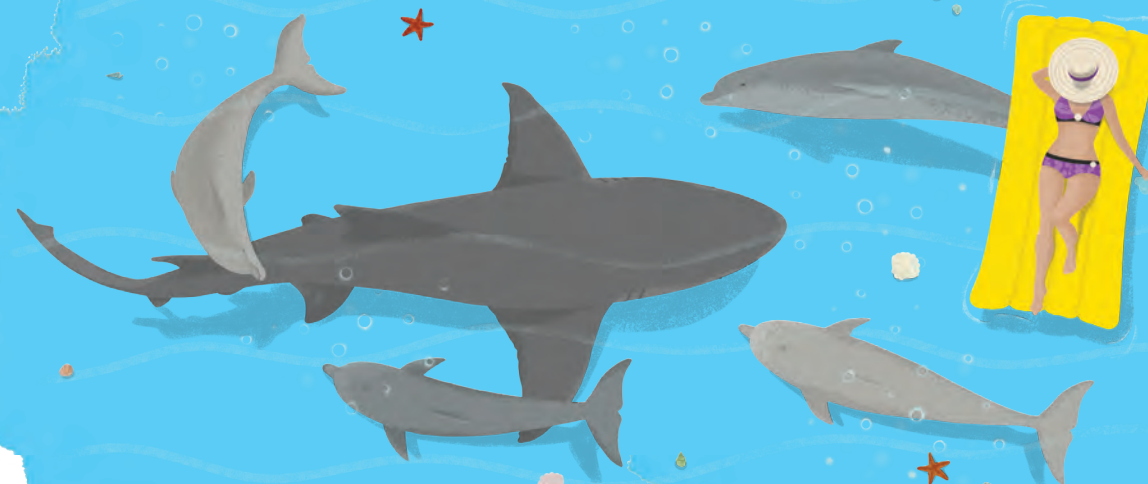


DOLPHiNS iN SERViCE

Incorrigible humanity thinks nothing of dragging a kindly, friendly creature like the dolphin into its hostilities. An army of trained dolphins can be used to detect mines in parts of a ship that are underwater and to monitor the approach of hostile divers or submarines; they are also trained to locate explosives that have been laid at sea.

LET'S BUILD UNDER THE SEA

So far, we've talked only about untrained dolphins. Specially trained ones help with undersea building work, conveying messages between ships and carrying on their backs injured workers in urgent need of help.

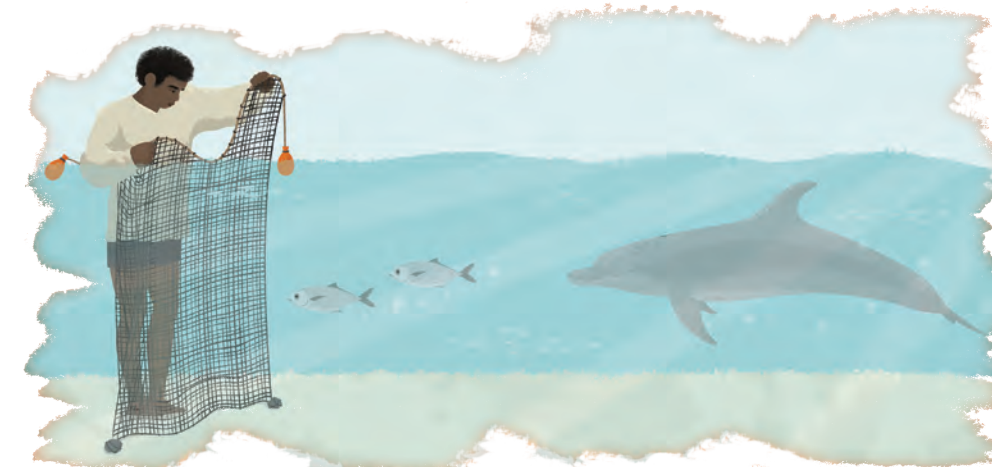


BEWARE OF SHARKS!

Do you know how dolphins save swimmers from sharks? Well, they swim around the stricken person in ever narrower circles, until the lurking predator loses interest in the prey or a lifeboat arrives to fish the poor human out.

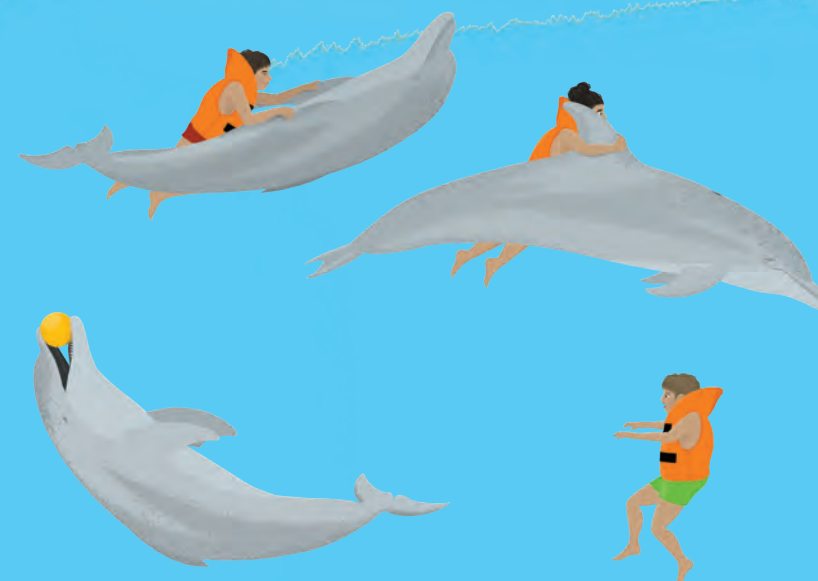
FiSHiNG WiTH DOLPHiN

Friendly dolphins are naturally very fond of humans. We know this because they help fishermen lure fish into their nets. In return, the fishermen give the dolphins part of the catch, and both parties end up satisfied. We're talking about ordinary dolphins in the wild, not trained ones. This happened in Brazil.



DOLPHiN THERAPY

They are very good at recognizing the client's state of mind and treating them accordingly. As the patient plays with the dolphin - throwing and catching balls and riding on its back, for instance - they learn to accept the animal's love, so regaining trust in themselves and the world around them.



7 CHEETAHS

They purr like cats, hiss and spit. What they don't do is roar menacingly. In any case, they are much-feared hunters who chase, catch up with and seize antelopes. That's right – there is no one faster than the cheetah. According to the latest research, the cheetah took its beautiful spots to its North African homeland over 100,000 years ago.



He gets tired quickly, but can develop speed up to 121 km per hour!

AS FAST AS THE WIND!

These wild cats are so phenomenally fast due to their flexible spine and their claws, which unlike felines, they are unable to retract. These permanently drawn claws give the cheetah what the spikes on the soles of running shoes give an athlete. Add to this a long tail to act as a rudder and it's no wonder the cheetah is a champion sprinter.

WHY ARE CHEETAHS SO FAST?

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THE CHEETAH AS DOMESTICATED HUNTER

Archaeologists have more than once found the mummy of a cheetah in the tomb of a pharaoh. In ancient Egypt, tamed cheetahs lived at the royal court. Not only were they lovable pets, they helped a lot with the hunting of antelopes and gazelles. Because of their expertise, cheetahs joined the hunt in India, Persia, Turkey, China and Hungary.



CAT WITH A DOG'S NATURE

Although cheetahs are felines, they are built more like dogs than cats. They are also more like dogs in their nature, which allows them to get close to humans. An experienced breeder will manage to tame these fleet-footed beasts, teaching them to respond to up to twenty commands. So next time you meet someone walking a cheetah on a lead, don't be surprised.



7 CHEETAHS

HOW THE HUNT WAS DONE

Tame cheetahs specially trained for the hunt would be transported on special carts or on horse-back to areas where antelopes and gazelles were known to graze. All that remained for their human companions to do then was to release them at the right time. The highly excited animals would set off at lightning speed; before the poor herbivores knew what was happening, they would be lying on the ground. Having moved in quickly for the kill, the human hunters would reward their animal helpers with the catch's fresh blood and guts.



Nobody will escape me!

Akbar The Great – the body of man, but the soul of the greatest cheetah of Indian history.



ASIA

The ancient Egyptians weren't the only ones to keep cuddly cheetahs at court - wealthy Asian rulers and Indian maharajahs did so, too. Two such were the Mongolian tyrant ruler Genghis Khan and the 16th century Indian ruler Akbar the Great. The latter thought pretty big - there were up to 1,000 cheetahs at his court.

CHEETAH VERSUS HYENA

If cheetahs were able to reproduce in captivity, maybe we would have succeeded in domesticating them as we have domesticated the dog. In the distant past, humans attempted to domesticate the hyena, which in evolutionary terms is more like a dog than a cat. The ancient Egyptians often kept spotted hyenas, sending them into the hunt alongside dogs. But hard as they tried, humans never managed to tame these beasts permanently.



They will probably never be domesticated

hyena

cheetah

WELCOME TO EUROPE

The reputation of these brilliant hunters spread to Europe in the 5th century. From then on, European rulers and great noblemen were assisted by cheetahs, many of which they received as gifts from the Ottoman Empire. The presence of cheetahs on the hunt would have come as no surprise to anyone visiting medieval Italy, France or England. In India, cheetahs were still used for hunting in the early 20th century.



Maybe you'll knock down that beautiful antelope.

If you let me go I'll catch that antelope!

8 COWS

It moos, provides milk and looks at humans with big, honest, lovely eyes. Today, it is a gentle, calm creature - no one would dream of being afraid of it. After all, it's had lots of time to get used to humans - 8,000 years, to be exact. What are we talking about? Why, *Bos taurus*, the cow, of course! The cow was one of the very first animals to be domesticated by humans.



MY WILD ANCESTOR

But don't get to thinking that taming the cow 8,000 years ago was an easy matter. In those days, the cows that ran about the meadows were aurochs, the wild ancestors of the cows of today. The aurochs was almost two metres in height, strong as an ox and armed with a large, menacing pair of curved horns. In their ongoing search for pastures new, the nomadic shepherds of those times took their lives into their hands in trying to tame the aurochs - yes, that's how dangerous the ancestor of the cow was!



Tame me if you can but it won't be easy!

END OF THE AUROCHS

Although the aurochs was a truly terrifying animal, over time our ancestors succeeded in taming it. By so doing, they launched humanity into a new orbit, where further progress could be achieved. Not only did the cow become the first draught animal, it became the first animal to be ridden, so making distant places much easier to reach. No, we're not mistaken - people in Africa really did ride cows before they got around to taming horses.

It's a wonderful view from the cow's back!



It doesn't look like but even a cow can be ridden like a horse.

DRAUGHT COWS

Cows, bulls and oxen are so strong that they can pull loads of several tons; they can also drag a plough across a field. Very often, cows, bulls and oxen were yoked in pairs, side by side or one in front of the other; they were in the charge of a so-called drover. Although slower and more easily tired than the horse, the cow has made a great contribution to humankind's economic progress.



THE COW AND RELIGION

When we hear the word 'bull', we think of something enormously strong. It will come as no surprise to learn that the ancient Egyptians took the bull as a symbol of strength and fertility. The pharaohs, who longed to possess at least a little of the bull, took the titles 'Mighty Bull' and 'Bull Among the Stars' as terms of address for themselves. Meanwhile the goddess Hathor was often depicted as a cow, a source of milk rich in fat.



BULL ISLAND

Crete was so keen on the bull it became the central figure in this Greek island's Minoan civilization. Here, too, the bull was a symbol of strength, fertility and abundant harvest. Bulls would be sacrificed on important Cretan occasions, and special bull tournaments would be held, during which people would ride on bulls and jump from one animal to another. Such events symbolized the process of taming these super-strong creatures.



Jump over a running bull.

Instead of dumbbells, Greek athletes simply picked up a cow.

I am so hungry! Where is my food?



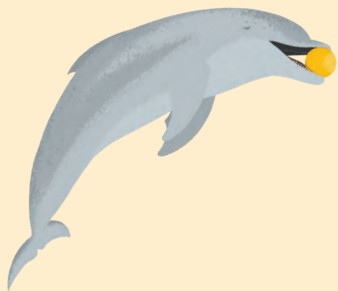
BARBELL OR COW?

It may be difficult to believe, but in ancient Greece the cow was used as a weight for lifting. A strongman and many-time Olympic champion called Milo of Croton would train for a wrestling match by carrying a cow on his shoulders. It's no wonder that Milo was unbeatable - an adult cow weighs up to 1,000 kg.



MINOTAUR – THE BEST KNOWN BULL OF ALL

Further evidence of the close connection of the cow/bull and the island of Crete is found in Greek mythology. The story goes that the wife of the Cretan king Minos fell in love with a white bull, and that she bore him a son – a monster with the body of a human and the head of a bull. Minotaur (so the love child was named) was imprisoned by Minos in a labyrinth, to which every nine years seven Athenian maidens and seven Athenian youths would be sent.




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They have been with us since time immemorial. Some are close to us, others we treat with great respect. And they help us. Who are we talking about? Why, dogs, cats, pigeons, elephants, fleet-footed cheetahs, even apparently super-ordinary geese! Everyone knows that dogs and horses give humans important help, but how about geese, cheetahs and dolphins? To find out more, open this book, feast your eyes on its beautiful pictures and read the stories about how wild animals became true friends of humans.



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