

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unusual Animals: Irrawaddy Dolphin



Many dolphins are easily recognized by their long nose. Not the Irrawaddy dolphin. This dolphin has a very short nose. It is also called a snub-nosed dolphin. Like other dolphins, the Irrawaddy is also a very friendly fisher.

The Irrawaddy lives in waters near the coasts. That means they live close to land. They can be found near the coast in Southeast Asia. Sometimes the dolphins will live around rivers, but they are not river dolphins.

The Irrawaddy dolphin eats different kinds of fish. It likes to eat bony fish. It also doesn't mind helping humans fish. This can be good and bad for the Irrawaddy. Irrawaddy are not afraid of fisherman. Sometimes the Irrawaddy will shoot water to help move fish. It will move fish into the nets of fisherman. The fisherman will give the Irrawaddy fish to thank them for helping. However the Irrawaddy are endangered because of humans. Irrawaddy can get tangled in fishing nets and drown. Also, people living near the coasts can pollute the water the Irrawaddy live in. People need to do more than just give away fish to help this friendly dolphin survive.

A. Where does the Irrawaddy live? _____

B. Read the story. Complete the chart.

The Irrawaddy	Irrawaddy and Humans	
Description Looks: Life and Diet	Good	Bad

C. The Irrawaddy is one of many endangered dolphins. Why are dolphins endangered? Use your computer to learn more. Write your findings below.