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earth

**DO YOU  
KNOW?**



# ANIMAL SENSES



With video  
content from  
BBC Earth

Level 3

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# New words



hearing



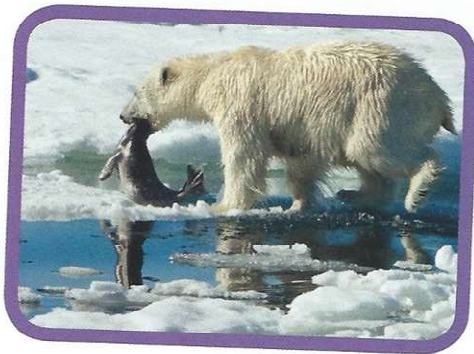
insect



lay eggs



nectar



predator



prey  
(noun)



sight



smell  
(noun and verb)



sound



tongue



touch  
(noun and verb)



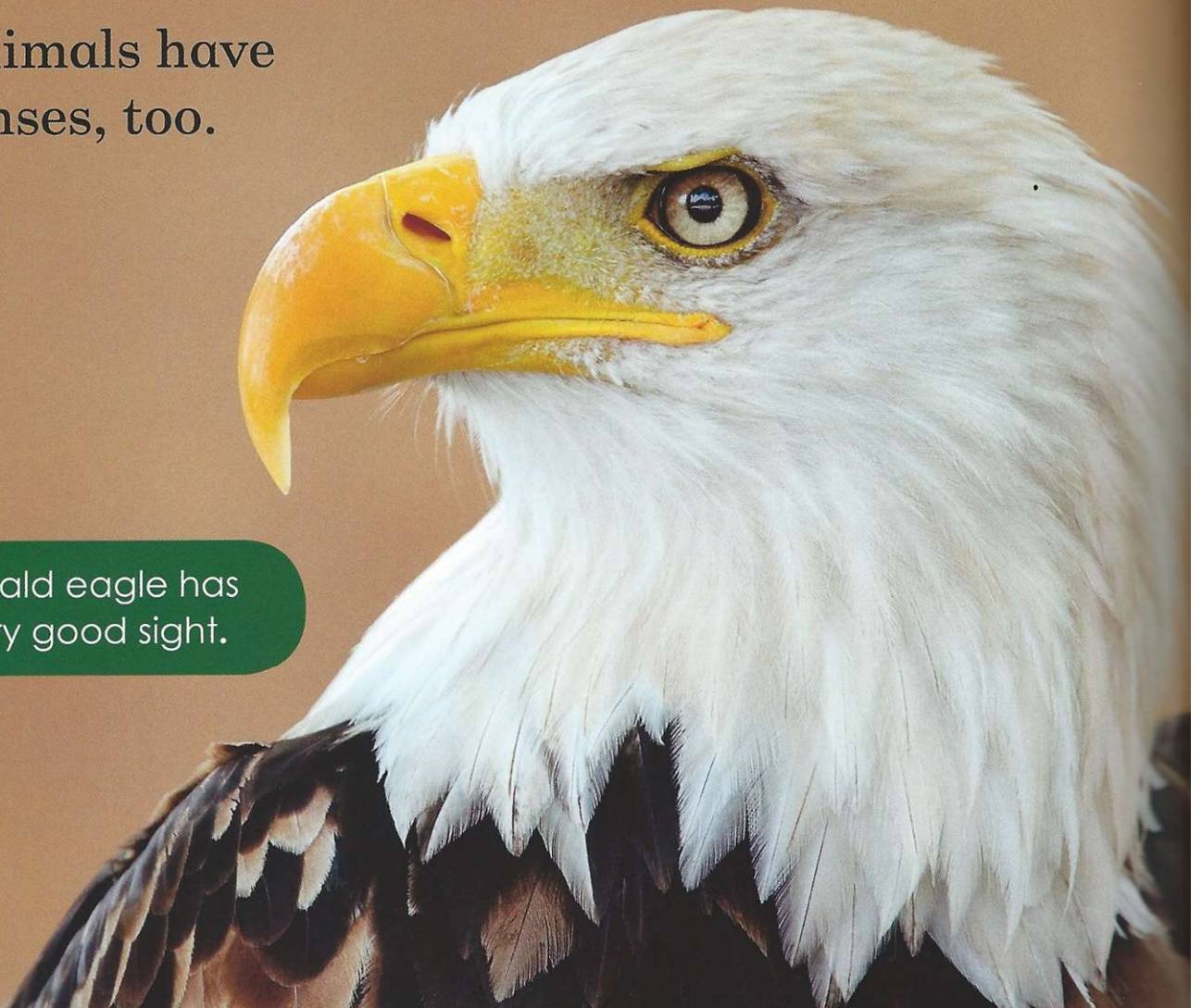
whisker

# What are senses?

People have five senses. We use our eyes to see (**sight**), our ears to hear (**hearing**) and our noses to **smell**. We use our hands to **touch** and our **tongues** to taste.

Animals have senses, too.

A bald eagle has very good sight.



Animals use their senses  
to find food and to stay  
safe from **predators**.

A hunting dog  
can hear very well.



A butterfly tastes its  
food with its feet.



An octopus uses its  
suckers to touch things.



## PROJECT

### Work in a group.

Make a chart about the five senses: sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste. What things do you see, hear, smell, touch or taste in a day? Write down everything you can think of.

# Which animals can see in the dark?

Some animals can see  
things in the dark!



Leopards can see at  
night when it is very dark.

Some animals sleep in the day and go out at night. They are called nocturnal animals.



Nocturnal animals can find their prey in the dark.

This barn owl is looking for its prey.



### FIND OUT!

**Use books or the internet** to find one more animal that is nocturnal. What senses does it have that help it at night?

# Which animals cannot see very well?

Some animals do not have very good sight. They must use different senses.



A naked mole rat cannot see very well.

Moles have small eyes and do not see very well. They use touch and smell to find prey and to stay safe.



nose

This star-nosed mole uses its nose to smell and to touch.



**WATCH!**

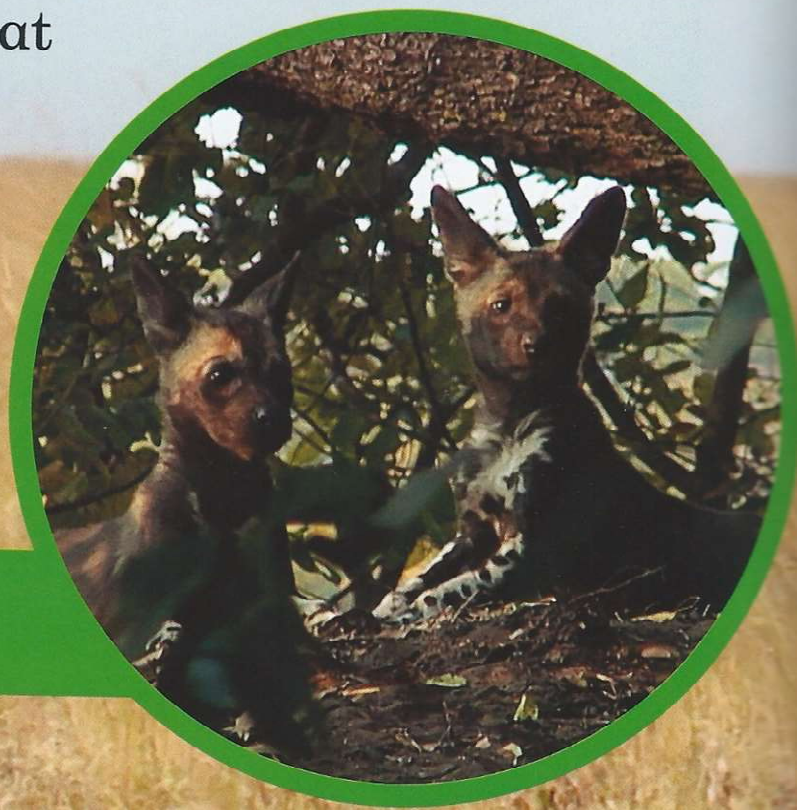
**Watch the video (see page 32).**

Which sense does the golden mole not have?  
How does it catch its prey?

# Which animals can hear well?

Many animals use their hearing to stay safe from predators.

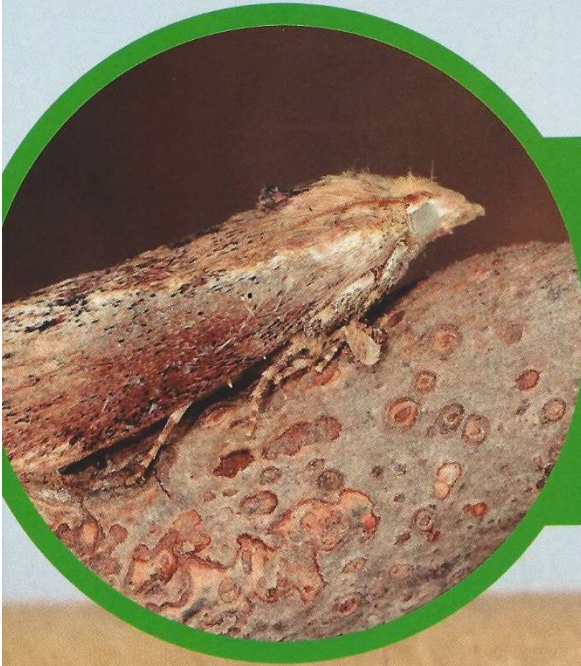
Some animals, like dogs, can hear **sounds** that people cannot hear.



Dogs can move their ears to hear different sounds.



Most moths have very good hearing.



Good hearing helps moths to stay safe from predators like bats.

The animal with the best hearing is the greater wax moth.



## FIND OUT!

**Use books or the internet** to find out how moths hear. Do they have ears?

# Which animal uses its legs to listen?

People use their ears to hear but crickets are different. Crickets can hear with their legs! They have very good hearing.



Crickets have little ears on their legs.

Other **insects**, like katydids, also hear with their legs.



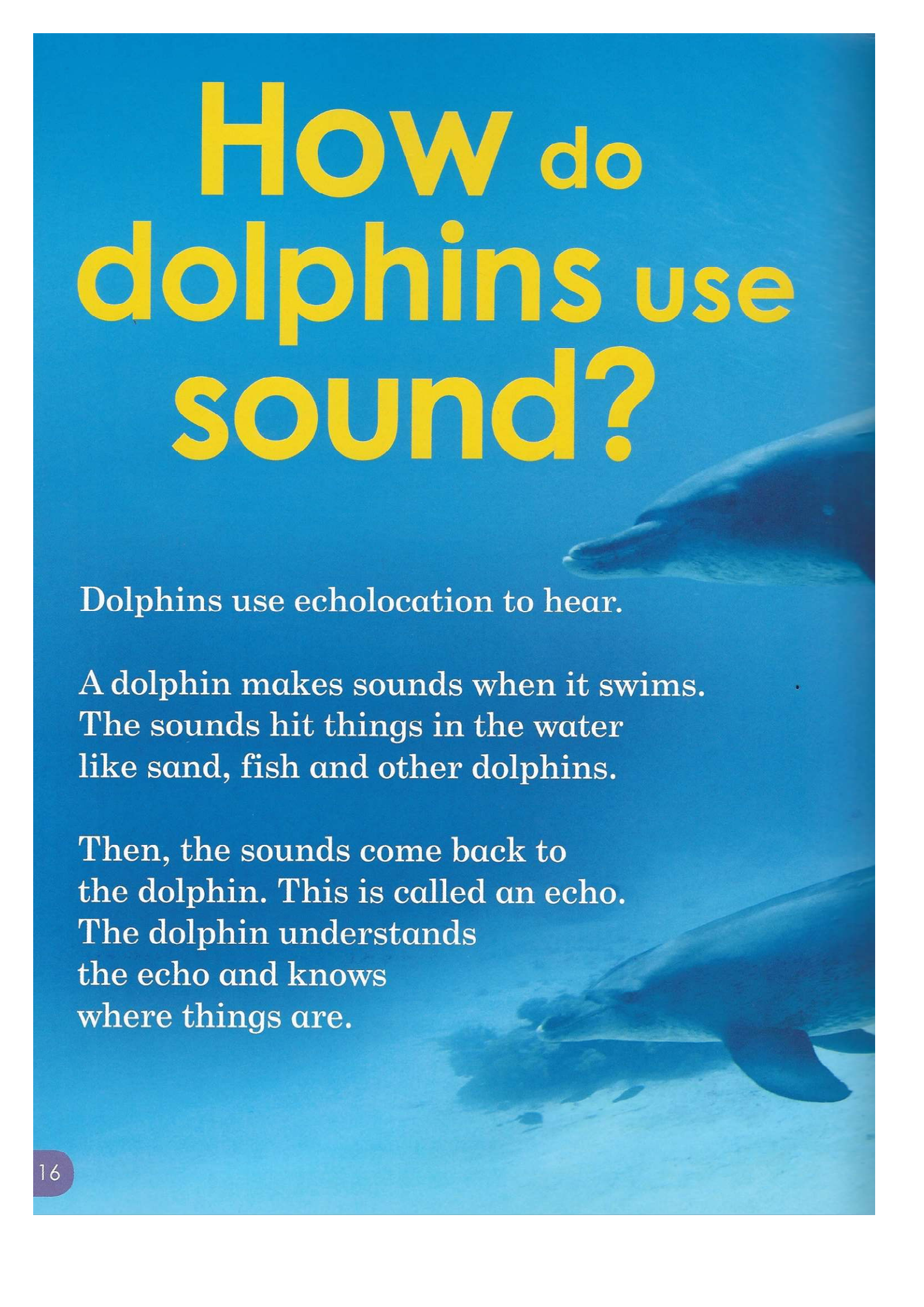
Elephants are big animals with very good senses. They use their feet to feel when other elephants move.



**THINK!**

What do elephants have that help them to hear things?

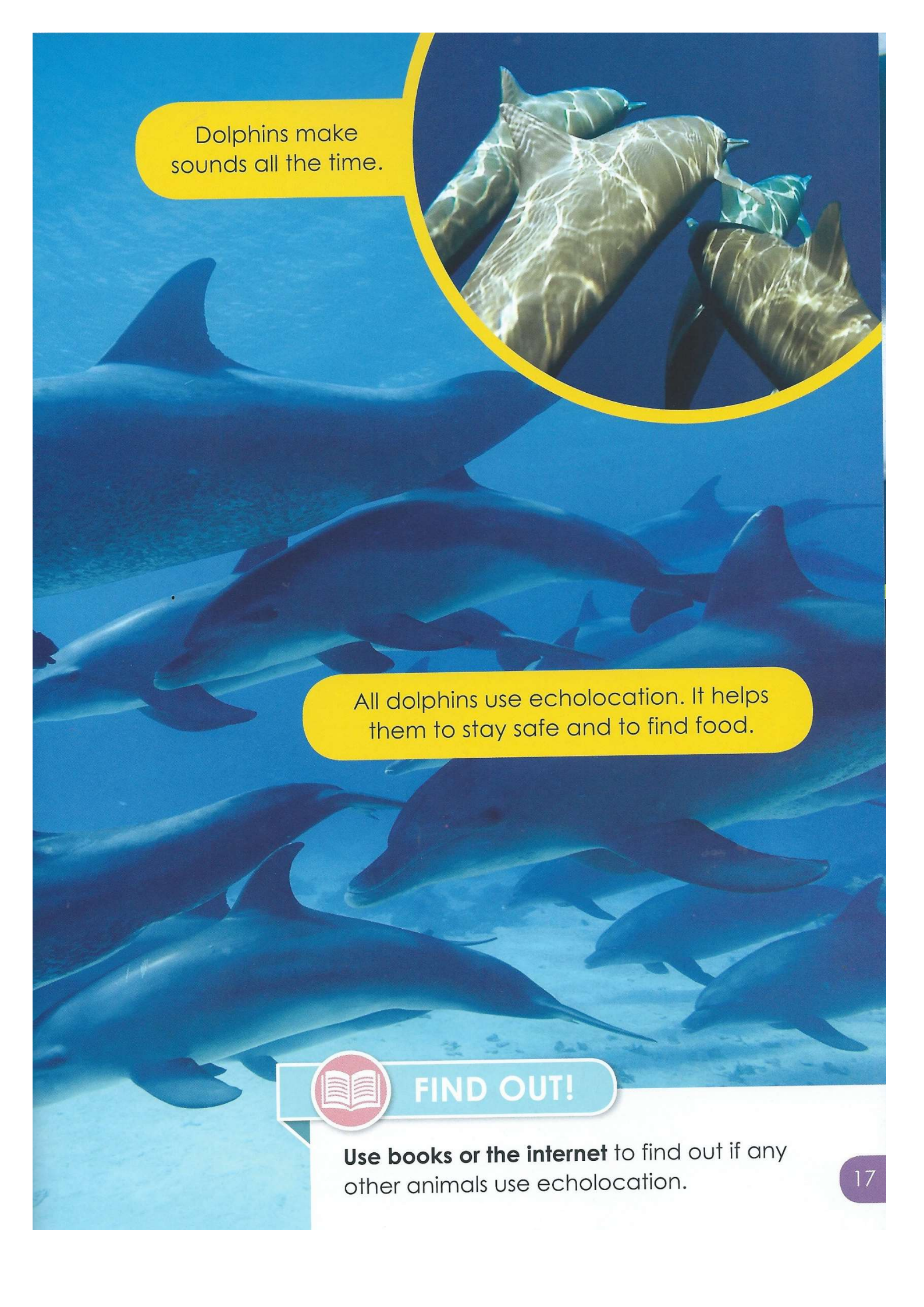
# How do dolphins use sound?



Dolphins use echolocation to hear.

A dolphin makes sounds when it swims. The sounds hit things in the water like sand, fish and other dolphins.

Then, the sounds come back to the dolphin. This is called an echo. The dolphin understands the echo and knows where things are.



Dolphins make sounds all the time.

All dolphins use echolocation. It helps them to stay safe and to find food.



## FIND OUT!

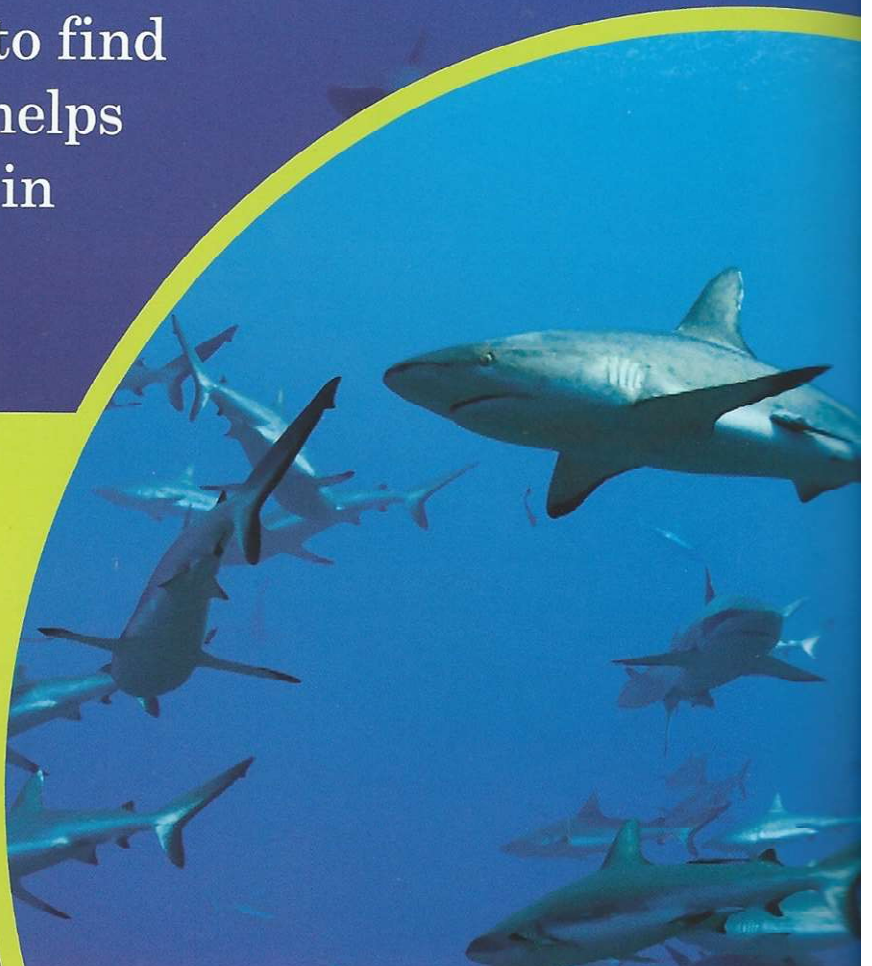
Use **books or the internet** to find out if any other animals use echolocation.

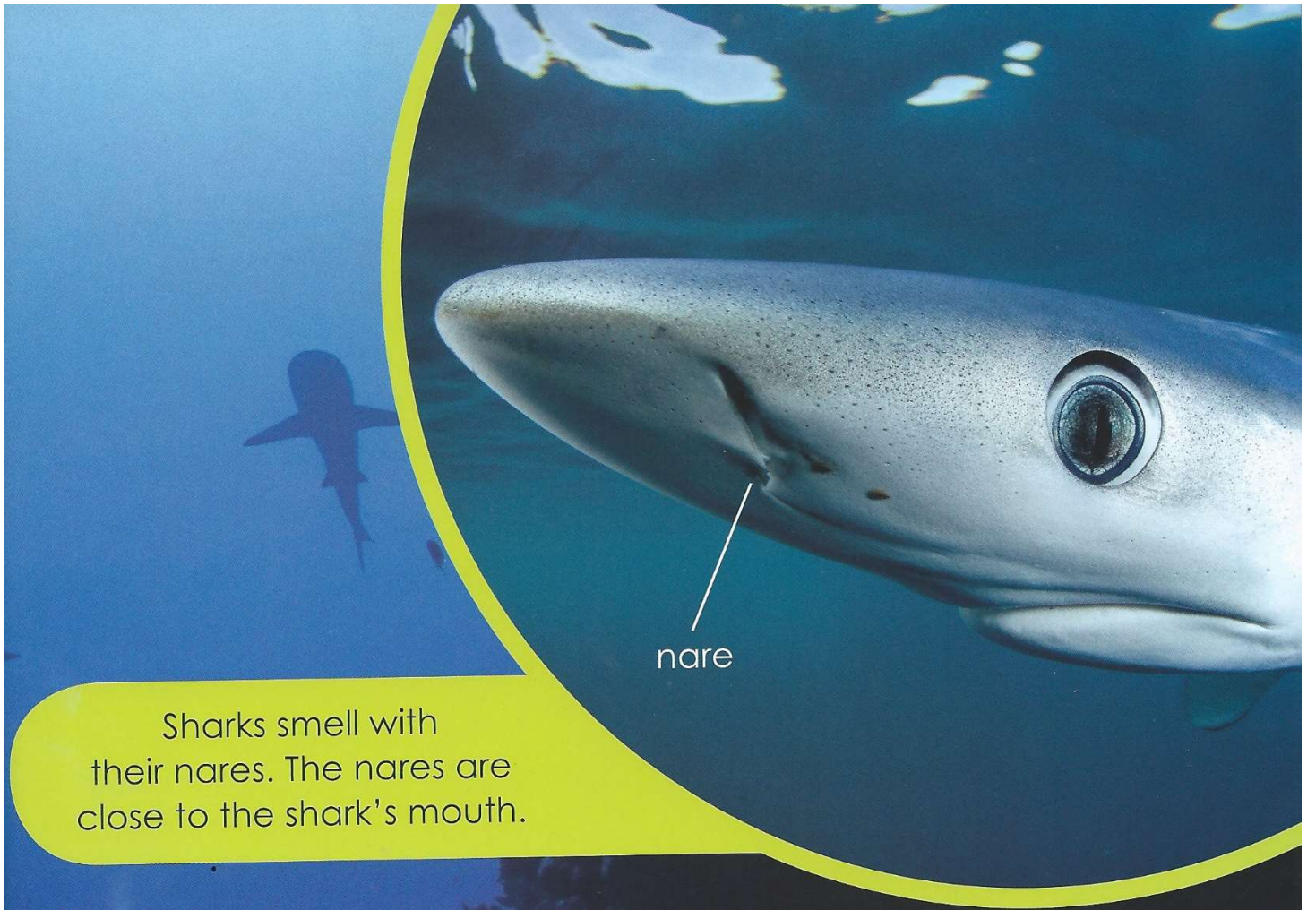
# Which animals have the best sense of smell?

A shark's sense of smell is much better than a person's sense of smell.

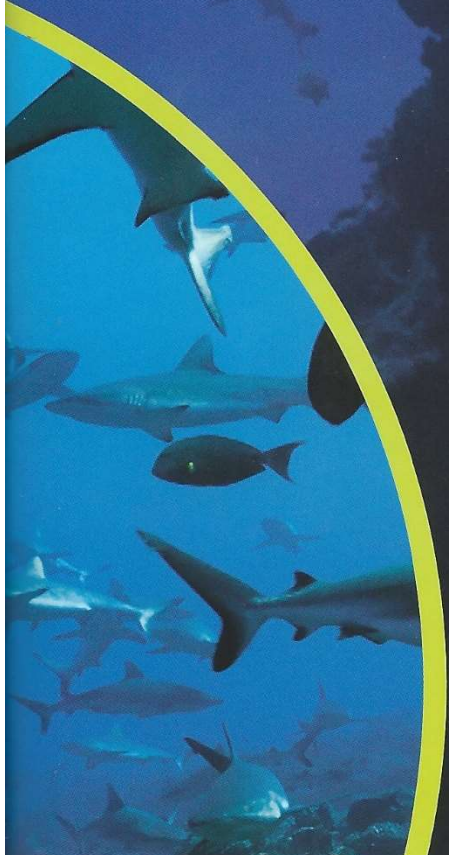
Sharks use smell to find other animals. It helps them to find prey in the water.

A shark is a very good predator because it has a good sense of smell.





Sharks smell with their nares. The nares are close to the shark's mouth.

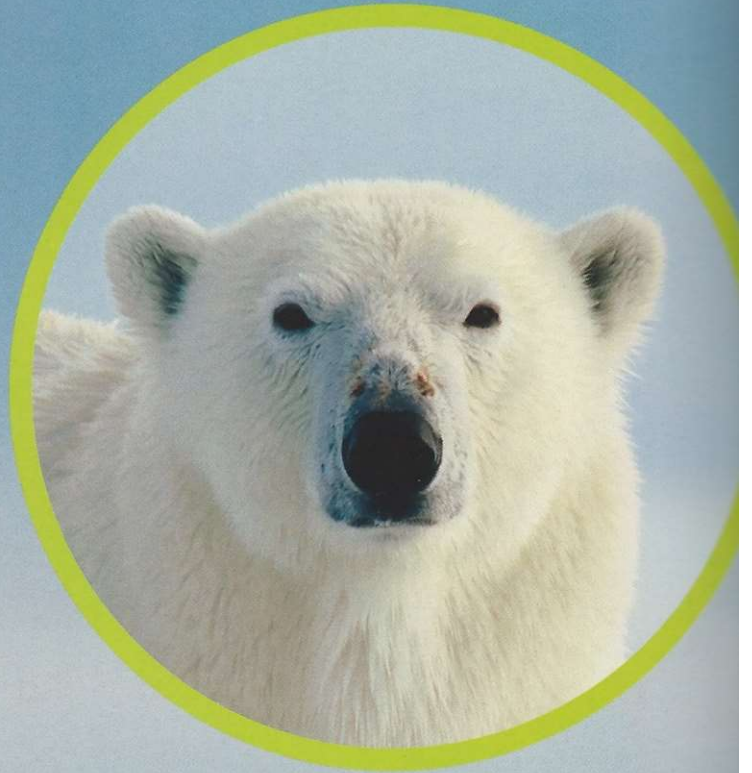


**THINK!**

What other parts of a shark's body help it to find prey in the water?

Bears have a very good sense of smell.

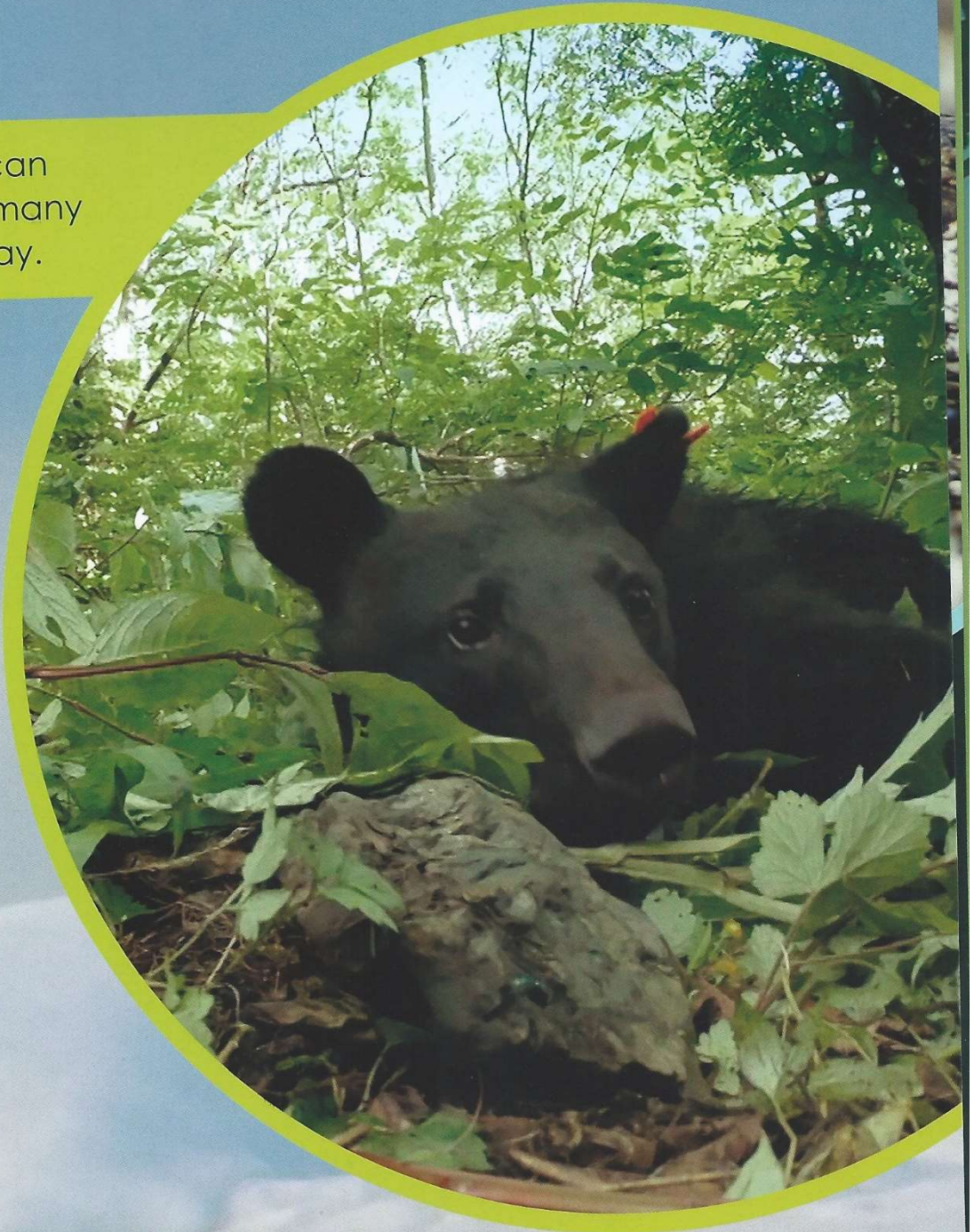
They use their noses to find food from far away.



This polar bear is looking for a seal. It can smell the seal before it can see it.



A black bear can smell food from many kilometres away.



**WATCH!**

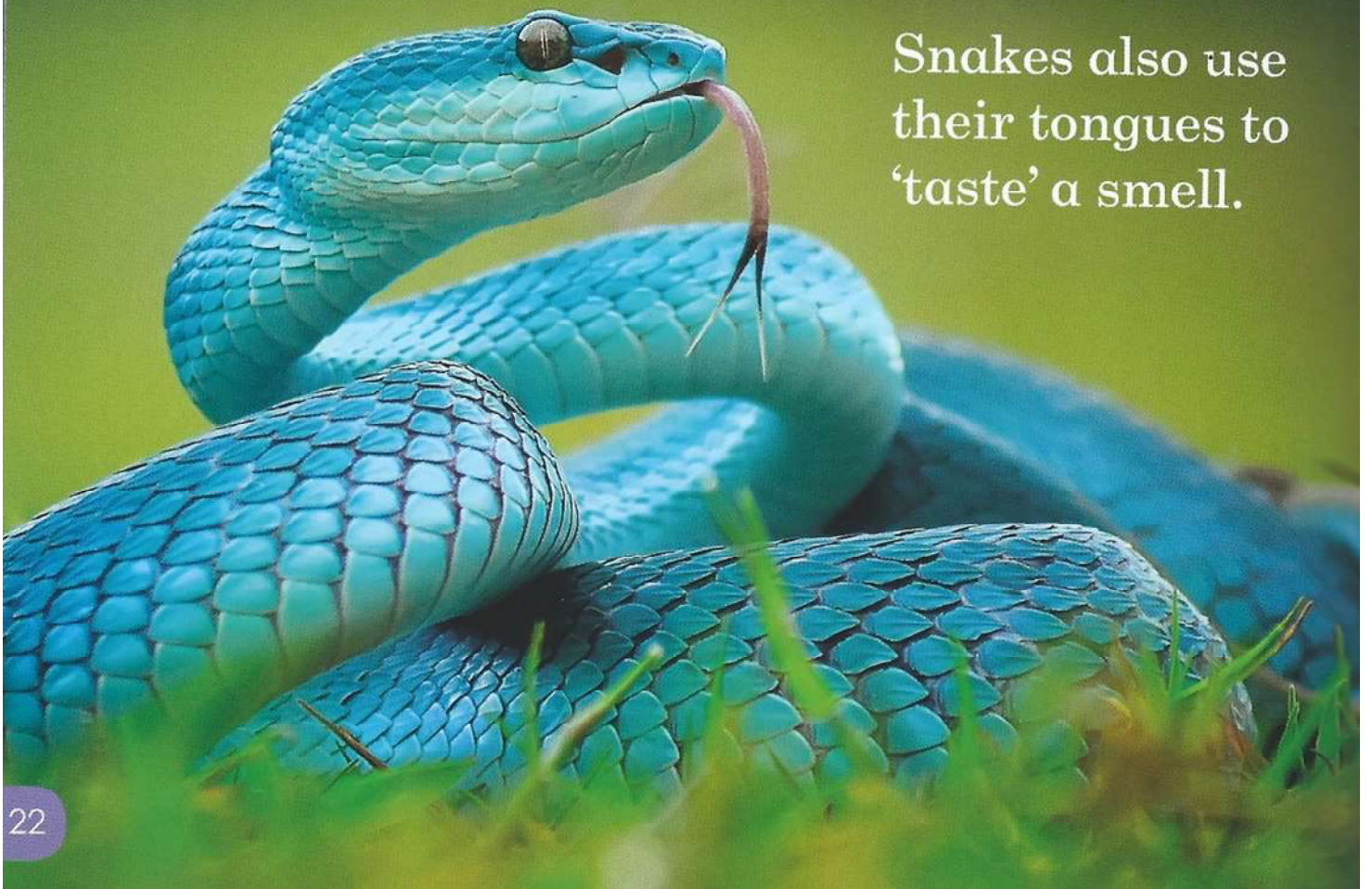
**Watch the video (see page 32).**

Which sense does the polar bear use to find the seal?  
What other senses does it use?

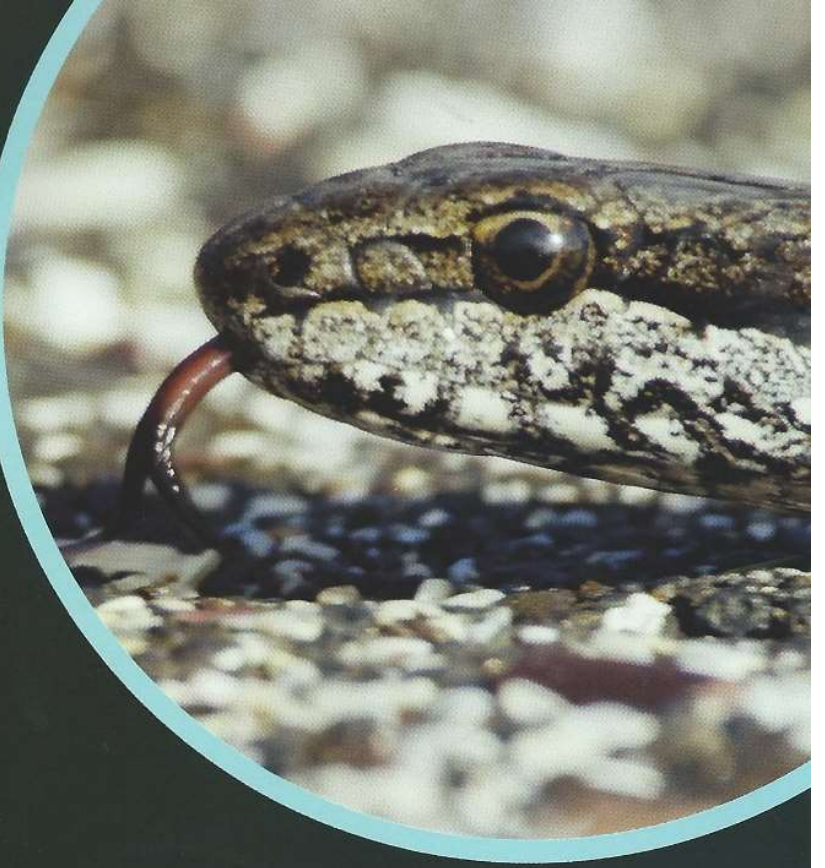
# How does a snake smell?

Snakes have a nose, but they don't use it like we do.

Snakes also use their tongues to 'taste' a smell.



This racer snake is using its sense of smell to understand what is near.



Smells help the snake to understand where it is and what is near.



Sea snakes live in the water. They use sight and smell to find their food.



**LOOK!**

**Look at the pages.**

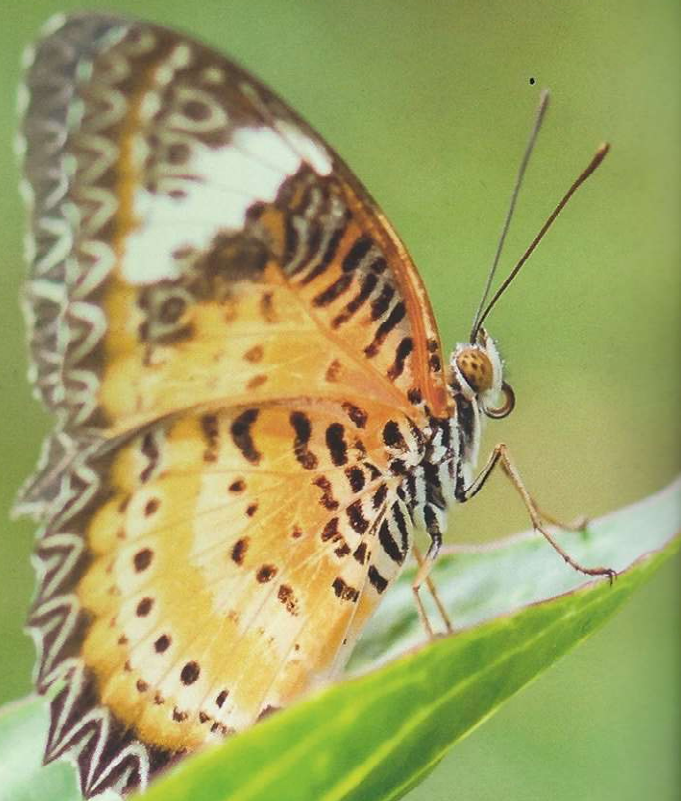
What is interesting about the shape of a snake's tongue?

# Which animals taste with their feet?

Butterflies walk on their feet and they can taste with them, too!

Butterflies walk on flowers and taste the nectar.

They taste leaves with their feet when they want to lay eggs.



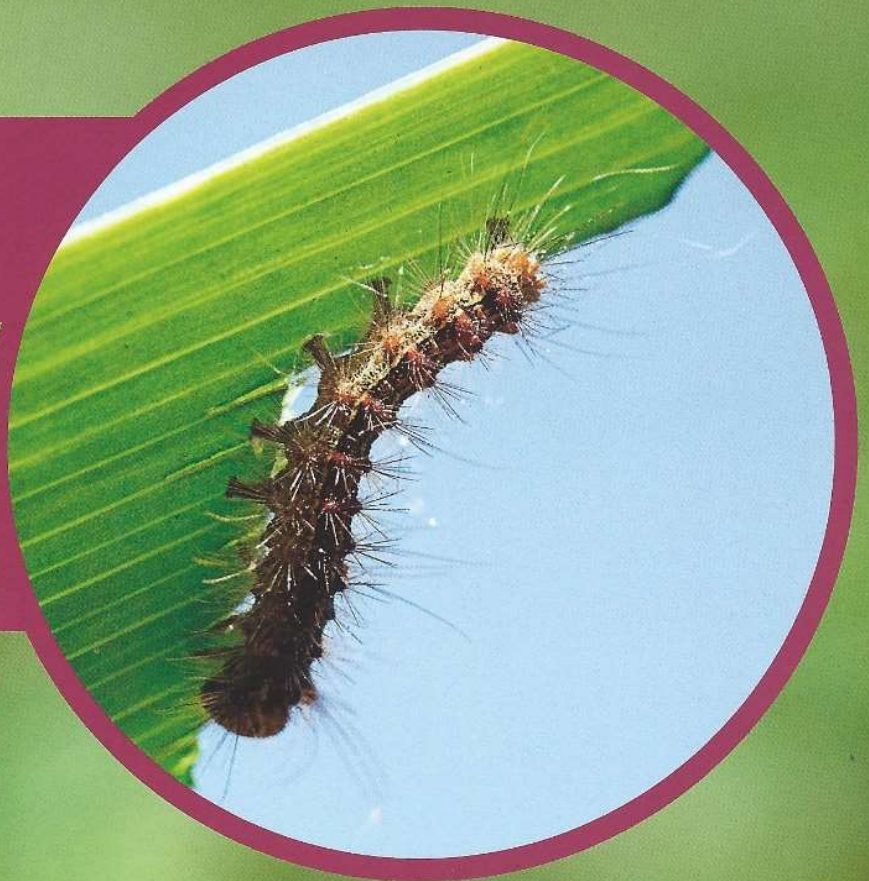


This butterfly is tasting the leaf with its feet.

The butterfly is choosing a good leaf to lay its eggs on.

When the caterpillars come out of the eggs, they eat the leaves.

The right leaf is good food for caterpillars.



**THINK!**

Would you like to taste things with your feet? Why? Why not?

# Which animal has the most taste buds?

Most animals have taste buds.

Our taste buds are on our tongues. They tell us about our food.

Earthworms have taste buds all over their bodies.



A catfish can find food in dark water.

It has taste buds all over its body.



These taste buds help the catfish to taste food when it swims.



## PROJECT

### **Work in a group.**

Talk about your favourite foods and make a chart showing whether these foods are sweet, salty, bitter or sour. Which flavour is the most popular?

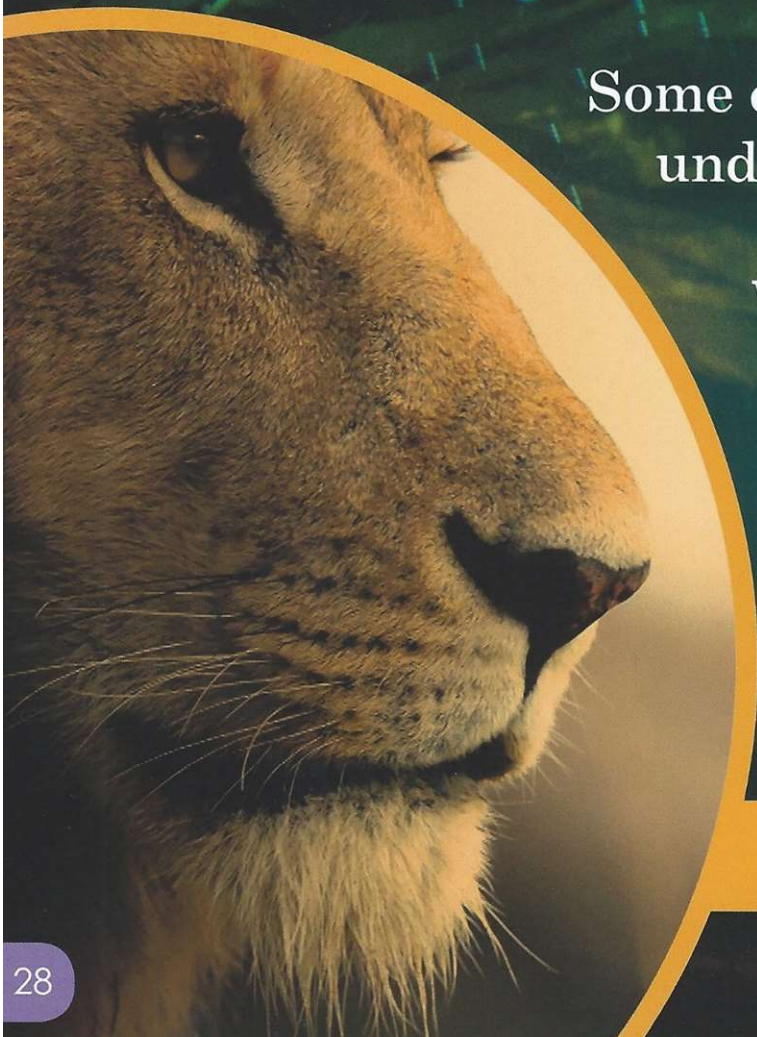
# How do whiskers help animals to touch?

Some animals use touch to understand where they are.

**Whiskers** help some animals to touch what is around them.

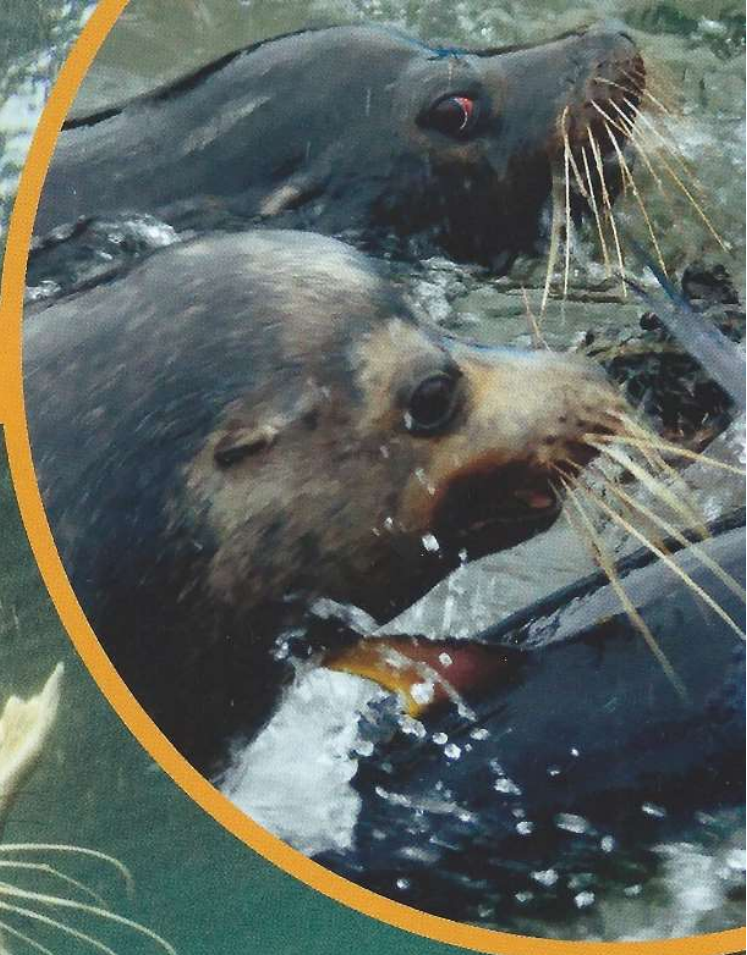
When the animal moves, the whiskers touch things.

Lions and all cats have whiskers.





Sea lions have very long whiskers.



Seals use their whiskers to hunt prey.  
Whiskers give seals a very good  
sense of touch.



**WATCH!**

**Watch the video (see page 32).**  
How do sea lions use their whiskers?

# Quiz

Choose the correct answers.

1 Which of these animals cannot see well?

- a a leopard
- b an owl
- c a mole



2 Crickets can hear with their. . .

- a eyes.
- b legs.
- c heads.



3 Elephants feel movement with their . . .

- a feet.
- b tail.
- c ears.



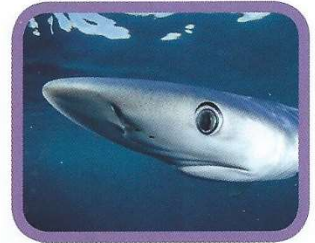
4 Dolphins use echolocation. Echolocation works by using . . .

- a smell.
- b sound.
- c touch.



5 Sharks \_\_\_\_\_ with their nares.

- a hear
- b see
- c smell



6 What does a black bear use to find prey?

- a its nose
- b its feet
- c its ears



7 What does a snake use to smell?

- a its eyes
- b its tongue
- c its feet



8 Whiskers help animals to . . .

- a smell.
- b touch.
- c hear.



# ANIMAL SENSES

Which animals can hear well? Which animals taste with their feet? Find out all about crickets, sea lions and bald eagles.

*Do You Know?* is a series of levelled non-fiction books featuring video content, project work and critical-thinking activities to motivate and engage young learners. Covering a range of STEM topics from nocturnal animals to climate change, *Do You Know?* takes an enquiry-based approach, developing children's language, communication and investigation skills.

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Level 2

A1 • 600 headwords

Level 3

A1+ • 800 headwords

Level 4

A2 • 1100 headwords

Lexile measure 480L • Word count 392

Cambridge Primary Science curriculum link:  
Animal senses

U.K. £4.99 CAN. \$10.95

ISBN 978-0-241-35577-0



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