

READ THE PASSAGE Stop after each paragraph and think about what the paragraph said.

Made to Live in Water

People breathe air and so do dolphins. They breathe through an opening in the top of their head. The opening is called a blowhole. The blowhole is a flap of skin that can open and close. When a dolphin swims to the water's surface, it uses strong muscles to open its blowhole. The blowhole closes as a dolphin dives back underwater.

People do not have to think about breathing while they sleep. Breathing happens automatically. A dolphin must be awake to control its blowhole. And it needs to rest. How can it breathe *and* rest? When a dolphin rests, it swims slowly. Half of its brain shuts down. The other half stays alert for danger. It also signals the dolphin when to rise out of the water for a breath of air. After a couple of hours, the halves of the dolphin's brain trade jobs.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Write the main idea of the text in your own words.

2. What part of the human body is a dolphin's blowhole most like?

3. When it comes to breathing, how does a dolphin's brain differ from the human brain?

STRATEGY PRACTICE Tell a partner how a dolphin breathes while it rests.