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THE GANGGES RIVER DOLPHIN



GETTING TO KNOW..

THE GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

Region & Habitat	These freshwater dolphins inhabit the river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh
Classification	Mammalia
Size	7–8 ft (2.2–2.6 m) long, and weigh between 330–374 lbs.
Nocturnal or Diurnal	Both nocturnal and diurnal activity
Conservation Status	Endangered
Average Lifespan	Up to 30 years
Diet	Variety of fish and invertebrates
Scientific Name	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>
Fun Fact	Ganges river dolphins are almost blind, with tiny eyes that lack a lens. They use echolocation to navigate and hunt.

First discovered in 1801, the Ganges River Dolphin is only found in the freshwater habitat of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, and is essentially blind. It catches its prey with “echolocation”, emitting ultrasonic sounds and listening for the reflected echoes when the sounds bounce off the object – much like a bat. They travel alone or in small groups, and frequently mothers and calves are found traveling together.

The Ganges River Dolphin is considered a top predator in their freshwater river ecosystem. They use their ability to side-swim and along with their flexible neck they are able to search river bottoms and stir up hiding prey. Their speed and ability to swim in shallow water allow them to chase and herd schools of fish. Their teeth and long snouts allow them to catch and hold fish. They shake their prey in their jaws, moving it around so they can swallow it head first. This helps prevent the prey's scales from getting caught in their throat.

Sadly, the Ganges River Dolphin is among the most endangered of all cetaceans. Its natural habitat has steadily declined and degraded due to human population, pollution, and human modification such as river dams. Conservation groups are currently working to change this and save this species from extinction.

WORD SEARCH

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F K L L W L N F H K I D L K A
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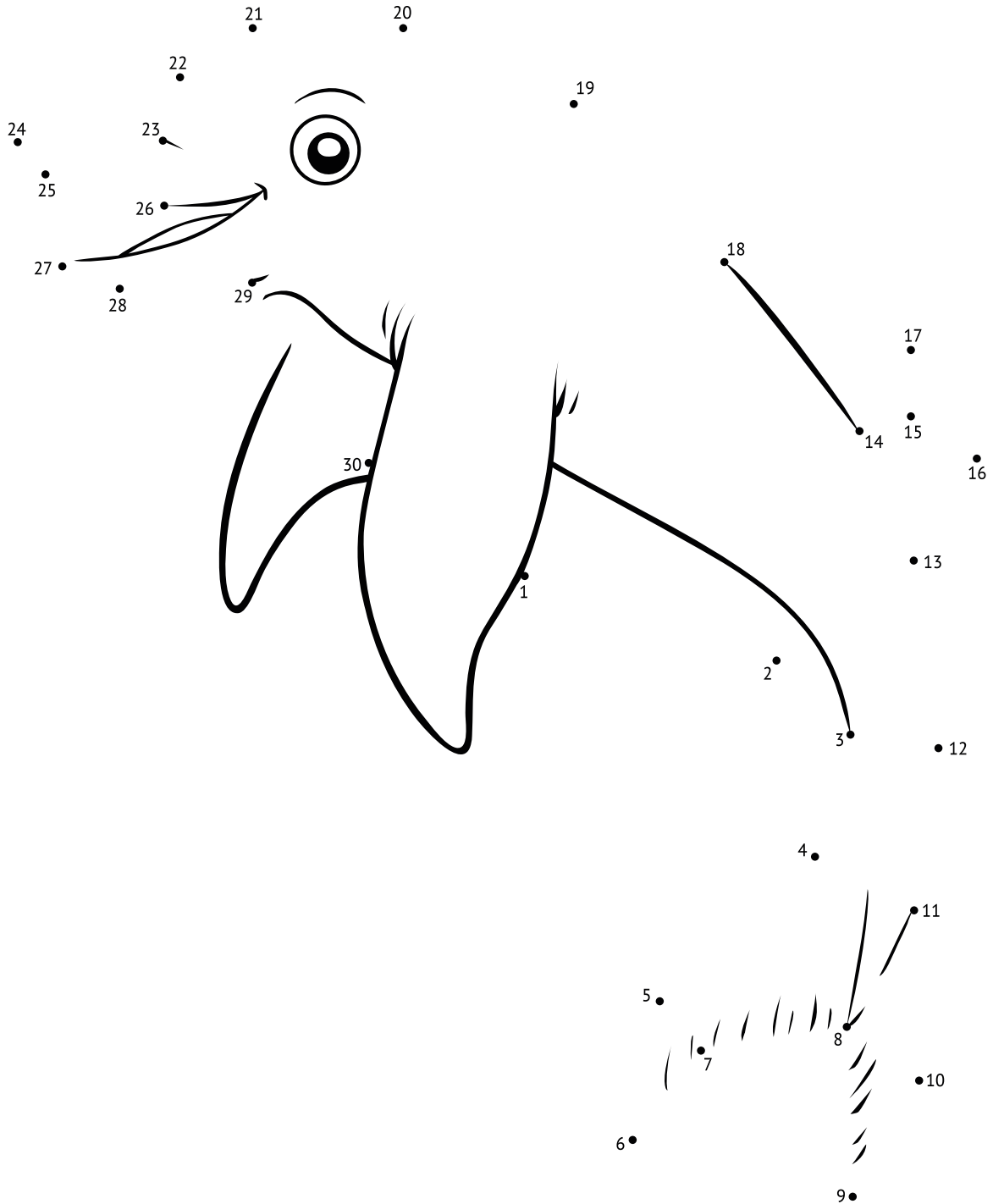
Ganges
Dolphin
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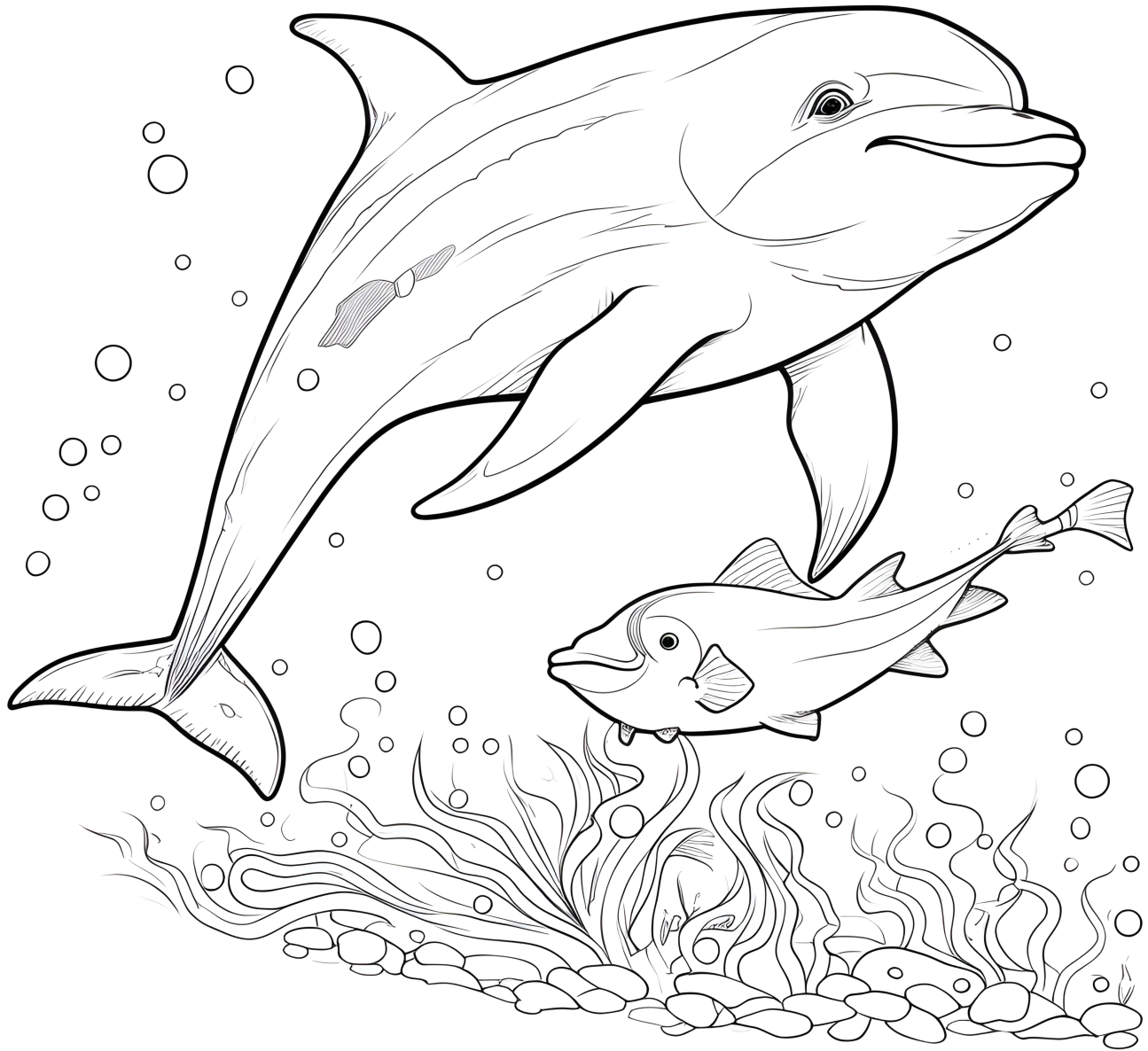
Nocturnal
Diurnal
Nepal

India
Bangladesh
Freshwater

Blind
Swim
Endangered

DOT-TO-DOT





SOLUTIONS

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