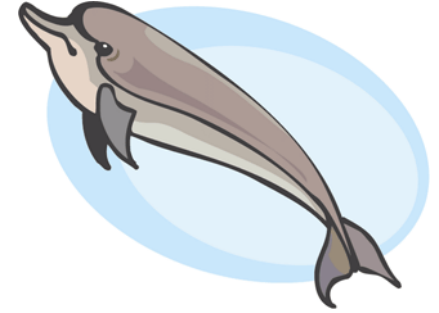


Name _____ **Summarizing Texts**



The Amazon River Dolphin

DIRECTIONS: Summarize the following text by underlining key words and phrases. Break down the larger ideas and answer the main questions *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *how*. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief summary of the text.

River dolphins differs in several ways from its ocean dwelling cousins that you probably think of when you hear the word dolphin. The Amazon River Dolphin is the largest species of river dolphin, weighing as much as 400 pounds, and often growing to be eight feet long. It is pink or grey in color, with small eyes and a protruding forehead. The Amazon River Dolphin doesn't have a dorsal fin. Instead it has a low ridge along its back. Hairs on its long beak help the dolphin sense food like fish, crab and turtles along the bottom of the river. The Amazon River Dolphin is also slow by dolphin standards. It swims no more than nine miles per hour, but is able to occasionally "sprint," as well, for short periods of time. It doesn't stay under the water for any more than two minutes at a time. Like others of its species the Amazon River Dolphin is both friendly and curious, and has been reported to interact with divers.

Females begin breeding at between six and ten years of age, and give birth to one calf at a time after an 11-month gestation period. Calves remain with their mothers for after 6-10 years and give birth to a single calf after a gestation period of 11 months. Calves stay with their mothers for sometimes over two years. Females only breed once every four or five years. The Amazon River Dolphin has an average life expectancy of about 30 years.

Currently vulnerable to extinction, a victim of habitat destruction and fishing practices that have led to its decline. Dams within the Amazon River have also restricted the movement of populations and left groups fragmented. Nonetheless, healthy populations do remain. They are found primarily in the deeper parts of the river, though they can be found deep in the forest when the river floods, swimming between the trees!

WHO: _____

WHEN: _____

WHAT: _____

WHY: _____

WHERE: _____

HOW: _____