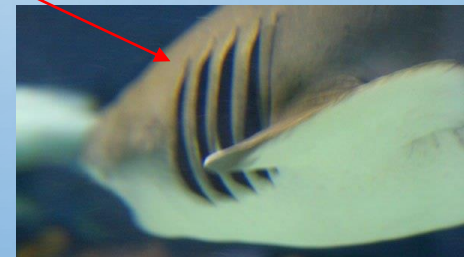


# How are some animals able to breathe underwater?

Animals living in the water have adapted (changed) the way that they breathe to survive in their habitat.

**Most** animals that live in the water have gills. Yet, many mammals, birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles also live in the water and dive to get some food. They don't have gills. They have lungs, which are not suited to breathing underwater. But how do they survive in the water then?



# How do sea mammals breathe underwater?



Mammals such as seals, sea cows and sea otters **cannot breathe underwater**, because they do not have gills. **They have to return to the water surface** regularly.

# How do sea mammals breathe underwater?



Dolphins and whales have adapted (changed) the way they breathe to live in their habitat. They **do not breathe through their mouth**, but **use breathing holes at the top of their heads**. They only have to come up so far that their breathing holes are above the water surface.

First they breathe out used air through the breathing hole. This often makes a little fountain of water. Then they breathe in through the open breathing hole and close it again before diving into the sea again.

# How do reptiles breathe underwater?



Reptiles such as turtles, sea snakes and crocodiles **have lungs and have to return to the water surface regularly.**

Crocodiles have – similar to whales and dolphins – adapted (changed) to their habitat: They use their nostrils to breathe.

# How do fish breathe underwater?



Fish do not have to return to the water surface. They have **gills**, to **absorb (take in) the oxygen from the water.**

# Which other animals breathe underwater through their gills?



octopus



shark



manta ray



crab



giant clam