

Dolphinarium Essay Competition

2nd Place – Primary School



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Grade 6

It is Not What it Seems

On the outside it looks like fun and games for these dolphins, but is it? What are we missing? According to the Collins dictionary, dolphinariums or dolphin parks are pools or aquariums for dolphins, especially one in which they give public display.

However, I strongly believe that dolphin parks cause more harm than good for these dolphins and to us as well. Here is the sad truth about dolphin parks.

Firstly, these dolphins are normally depressed in captivity. It may look like they are smiling, but the truth is they cannot change the look on their faces. Their depression tends to lead to aggression and they are known at times to kill their trainers. Which is not normal, because dolphins are usually friendly and docile. In fact, they become so depressed that they even reject food.

Secondly, we are taking their lives away! Dolphins that live in the wild can live ninety years and over but dolphins in captivity live about five years. They barely have time to breed and then die.

Then more dolphins will be captured, and the cycle will start all over. Why? For our enjoyment?

Is it worth it?

The dolphin parks not only have horrifying effects on these dolphins but also negatively impacts the people and marine life in St. Lucia. Although the park may provide some jobs however, the parks may cause much harm. For example, dolphins may carry viruses and bacteria which can be passed on to people. Also, dolphins' waste may harm the marine environment because the waste contributes to an increase in algae growth. Algae is harmful to not only humans but also marine life. It is a well-known fact that harmful algae blooms produce extremely dangerous toxins that can sicken or kill people and animals.

Also, it has been stated that swimming with dolphins is quite safe. And many tourists may want to engage in this activity. But is swimming with dolphins safe? Parents would not dream of putting their children or themselves in a cage with lions, tigers or bears. However, this caution is lost with dolphins. In the swimming with the dolphin programme, dolphins are known to attack and hurt the visitors. Therefore, if we set up this park this may discourage tourists from coming or returning to our country. It should also be noted that the main source of foreign exchange in St. Lucia is Tourism. Most tourist care about how animals are treated. Do we really want to be known around the world as a country which is cruel to animals? That would really hurt the tourism industry!

Although there are some benefits to having a dolphin park in St. Lucia. It will not really benefit our country. So do we really want to bring a dolphin park to St. Lucia? Why would we want to capture these poor animals? Dolphins are meant to be free. Listen to me and make the right choice.