

A close-up photograph of a walrus resting on a sandy beach. The walrus has thick, wrinkled brown skin and two prominent, long, white tusks. Its eyes are small and dark. The background shows other walrus heads and a blurred ocean under a clear sky.

ALL ABOUT WALRUSES

Splash, snort, and explore these
tusked ocean giants!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE WALRUSES!

SPLASH! A big animal pops up from the cold water—it's a walrus!

Walruses are large sea animals that live in icy places. They have long tusks and a **wrinkly** face with whiskers. Walruses may look funny, but they are strong swimmers and excellent divers.





WHAT WALRUSES ARE LIKE

Walruses are **mammals**, which means they breathe air and drink milk when they are babies. They have thick skin, **flippers**, and long white **tusks**. Walruses also have stiff whiskers that help them feel for food on the ocean floor.



WHERE WALRUSES LIVE

Walrus live in cold ocean areas near the **Arctic**. They spend time in the water and also rest on **sea ice** or rocky shores. Walrus like places where they can find lots of food and stay close to their group.

FROM CALF TO ADULT

A walrus's life begins as a **calf**. Calves stay close to their mothers and drink milk to grow big and strong. As they grow, calves learn to swim and dive. Over time, calves become adult walruses.



The background features a light gray grid pattern. At the top left, there is an illustration of two walrus heads resting on a piece of light blue ice. In the center, a single walrus head with prominent white tusks is shown. At the bottom center, another walrus head with tusks is visible. A large, thick brown curved line on the right side of the page frames a photograph of a walrus herd on a beach.

WHAT WALRUSES EAT

Walruses are **carnivores**, which means they eat other animals. They mostly eat small sea animals like clams and snails. Walruses dive down to the ocean floor and use their whiskers to find food. Then they suck the soft parts out of shells—slurp!



HOW WALRUSES STAY WARM

Walruses stay warm with a thick layer of **blubber** under their skin. Blubber helps them survive in icy water. Walruses also rest close together in groups to stay warm, like a big, cozy pile.





INSIDE A WALRUS GROUP

Walrus like to stay together in large groups. A group of walrus is called a **herd**. They rest on ice, swim together, and keep watch for danger. Walrus are social animals and feel safest with their herd nearby.



KEEPING SAFE

Walrus stay safe by staying close to their **herd**. If danger comes, they can slide into the water quickly.

Walrus are very large and strong, which helps protect them. People can help walrus by keeping oceans clean and protecting icy habitats.





DID YOU KNOW?

- Walruses can weigh as much as a small car!
- Walruses have long tusks and stiff whiskers.
- Walruses use whiskers to find food on the ocean floor.

QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Walruses are mammals.
2. (True or False) Walruses have flippers.
3. (True or False) Walruses live in hot deserts.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Walruses have whiskers.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Walruses are the silliest sea animals.
6. Where do walruses live?
7. What do walruses eat?
8. What is a baby walrus called?
9. How do walruses stay warm?
10. Why do walruses like to stay in herds?



ANSWERS

1. True. Walruses are mammals.
2. True. Walruses have flippers.
3. False. Walruses live in cold Arctic areas.
4. Fact. Walruses really do have whiskers.
5. Opinion. "Silliest sea animals" is a personal idea.
6. They live near the Arctic in cold ocean waters.
7. They eat clams and other small sea animals.
8. A baby walrus is called a calf.
9. They stay warm with blubber and by resting close together.
10. They stay in herds to feel safe and protected.



GLOSSARY

Arctic – a very cold place near the North Pole

Blubber – a thick layer of fat that keeps an animal warm

Calf – a baby walrus

Carnivore – an animal that eats other animals

Flipper – a body part used for swimming

Herd – a group of animals that live together

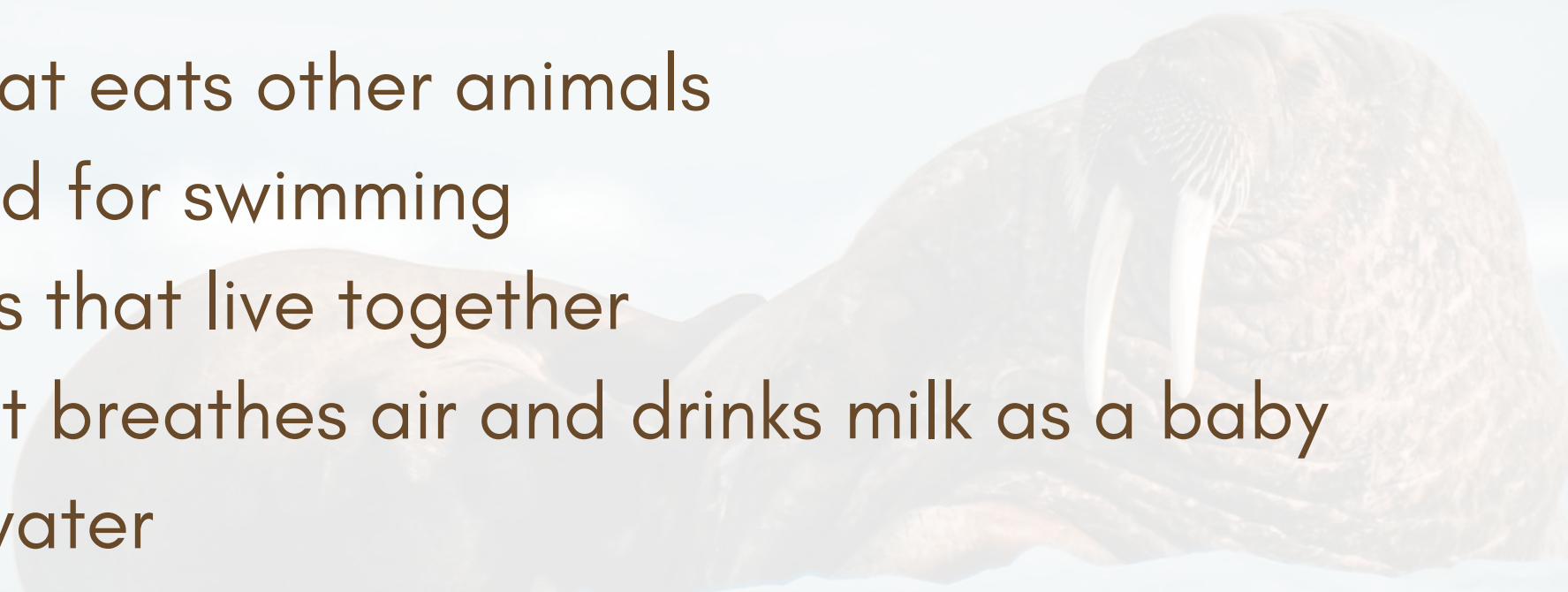
Mammal – an animal that breathes air and drinks milk as a baby

Sea ice – frozen ocean water

Tusk – a long tooth that sticks out of the mouth

Walrus – a large sea animal with tusks that lives in cold Arctic waters

Wrinkly – having lots of small folds or lines on the skin



A walrus is sitting on a piece of ice in a body of water. The walrus is brown and has a small tusk. It is looking towards the left. The background is a large, blue-tinted ice wall. The water is calm, and the walrus is reflected in it.

FUN WITH WALRUSES

Q: Why did the walrus sit on the ice and smile?

A: Because it was having a tusk-tastic day!