

# Primary Worksheets: Narwhal

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The Narwhal whale is a large-sized, toothed whale, that is most commonly found in the arctic North. It is often referred to as the 'unicorn of the sea', because of its large front tusk.

Though the horn of a Narwhal is not really a horn! It is actually an overgrown tooth. Some male Narwhals can have two tusks coming out the front of their bodies.

Narwhals are usually white with black spots, but they can sometimes have black stripes. They have a curved tail fin that allows them to swim steadily and make quick turns in the water!



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Narwhals are medium sized whales that can have a body size between 4 and 5.5 meters. The average weight of an adult narwhal is between 800 to 1,600kg. They can live up to 50 years.

The biggest predator for Narwhals is the Orca, but many are often killed by the sea ice when it freezes over. They were once hunted for their meat and ivory (from their tusk) by the Eskimos. There are under 50,000 Narwhals left.

Narwhals live in the icy waters of the Arctic seas. They are migrating animals, often moving from one place to another. They do not go far away from ice and stay in groups that can be as big as 100.



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Narwhals can hunt under ice and like to eat Arctic fish, like cod, shrimp, and squid. Rather than use their horn, they suck in their prey when they get close! Their blubber can keep them warm in the cold sea.

When hunting for food, the Narwhals use sound to help them navigate in the sea. Throughout the day, they like to dive to up to 1,500 meters.

A baby Narwhal is called a calf. Only one calf is born that can be as big as 1.6 meters in length and are either white or light grey in colour. They are often born between June and August.

The calves begin their lives with only a thin layer of blubber, which thickens when drinking their mother's milk which is rich in fat. They will drink milk for at least 20 months.



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**Answer the questions.**

What is a narwhal?

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What do they eat?

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Who are their predators?

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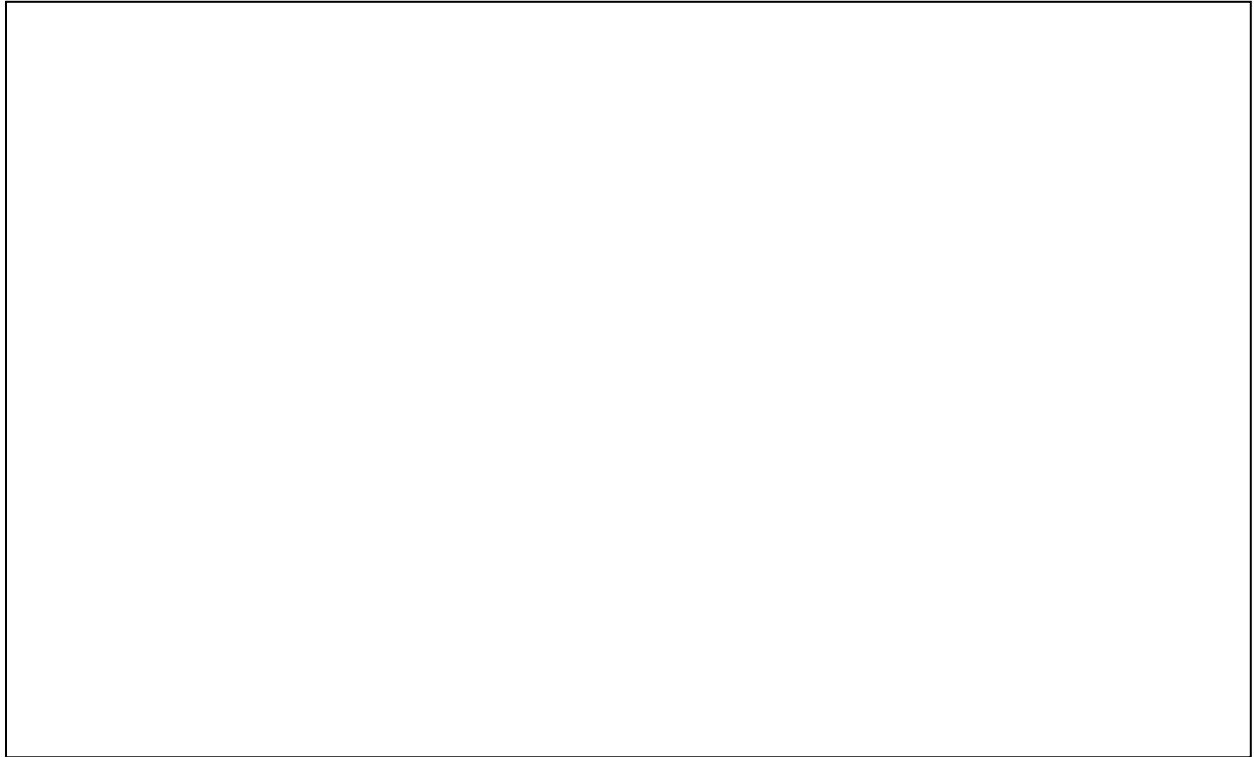
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Draw a narwhal and write a short paragraph about it!



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