

ALL ABOUT NARWHALS!

NARWHALS LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:

Day One: Intro to Narwhals: Physical Traits
Day Two: Narwhal Habitats
Day Three: What do Narwhals Eat?
Day Four: Narwhal Adaptations
Day Five: Narwhal Fun Facts



NARWHALS

can are

NARWHALS NARWHAL QUICK CHECK

1. Why do narwhals need blubber?
2. What are other narwhal adaptations?

NARWHALS VOCABULARY MATCH UP

	a large group of narwhals gathering together
	when a calf drinks its mother's milk
	a baby narwhal
	a thick layer of fat

NARWHALS LESSON PLAN

Day One: Intro to Narwhals
Objective: The students will be able to identify characteristics and physical traits of narwhals.

LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: "I want you to be learning all about narwhals. Narwhals are known as the unicorn of the sea! Why do you think they are called that? What do you already know about narwhals? Narwhals are a type of whale that live in the arctic and are the most well known for having a long, spiral "tusk" on their head. They have a round head, blowhole, a thick layer of blubber, gray, white & black skin, and flippers. They also can grow up to 18 feet long and weigh up to 3500 lbs!"

NARWHALS STATS

down
als

NARWHALS

NARWHAL UN

Directions: Unscramble the letters associated with a narwhal.

FSIH

SUIOD

CTTULEFSHI

OPUSCOT

HBALUTI

SPHRMI

CDO

stay warm.

Narwhals live in the arctic.

Narwhals breathe through a blowhole.

Narwhals are fish.



A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE DAY UNIT ALL ABOUT NARWHALS!

Includes lesson plans, graphic organizers, craft ideas, projects, comprehension questions and more!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



NARWHALS

LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:

Day One: Intro to
Narwhals: Physical Traits

Day Two: Narwhal
Habitats

Day Three: What do
Narwhals Eat?

Day Four: Narwhal Families

Day Five: Narwhal
Adaptations



NARWHALS

LESSON PLAN



Day One: Intro to Narwhals

Objective: The students will be able to identify characteristics and physical traits of narwhals.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: This week, we are going to be learning all about narwhals! Narwhals are known as the “unicorn of the sea”! Why do you think that is? What do you already know about narwhals? Narwhals are a type of whale that live in the arctic and are most well known for having a long, spiral “tusk” on their head. They have a round head, blowhole, a thick layer of blubber, gray, white & black skin, and flippers. They also can grow up to 18 feet long and weigh up to 3500 lbs!

NARWHALS

Lesson (20 minutes):

*The teacher will read the book, "The Nature Kid's Guide to Narwhals: A Level 2 Reader for Curious Young Kids Who Love Narwhals!". Questions to ask after reading - What did you learn about narwhals? What do they look like? Do they have any unique features? Where do they live? How do their physical features help them to survive in the arctic?

*Guide the students in completing the "Narwhals can, have, are" graphic organizer attached below.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will complete the "Fact or Fiction?" worksheet attached below. They will color in facts about narwhals in green and untrue statements in red.

Closing (5 minutes)

*With small groups or as a class, review together the "Fact or Fiction?" worksheet attached.

NARWHALS

n a r w h a l s

can

are



have

NARWHALS

FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the facts in green. Color statements that are fiction in red.

All narwhals live in Asia.

Narwhals have a large fin like a dolphin.

Narwhals are mammals.

Blubber is a thick layer of fat that helps narwhals stay warm.

A narwhal's tusk is actually a tooth.

Narwhals live in the arctic.

Narwhals breathe through a blowhole.

Narwhals are fish.

NARWHALS

LESSON PLAN

Day Two: Narwhal Habitats

Objective: The students will be able to identify where narwhals live and what they need in their habitats to survive.



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LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are going to learn more about where narwhals live. Narwhals live in the cold, icy Arctic Ocean. They are typically found near Greenland, Norway, Canada and Russia. Narwhals spend most of their time swimming in and around sea ice. During different seasons, they migrate to different areas of the ocean - from bays and fjords in the summer to deeper oceans in the winter. They stay warm in the freezing waters using a layer of fat called blubber.

NARWHALS

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The students will watch the video, "Narwhals: The Unicorns of the Sea" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXsZglsQYvA&t=4s>

- *Questions to ask students after watching the video - What did you notice about where narwhals live? How do you think they survive in the icy waters?

- *The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Narwhal Habitats" graphic organizer. In the circles in the graphic organizer, record four facts about narwhal habitats.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will independently complete the "Vocabulary Square" graphic organizer. The students will define the word blubber, write a sentence using the word and draw a picture.

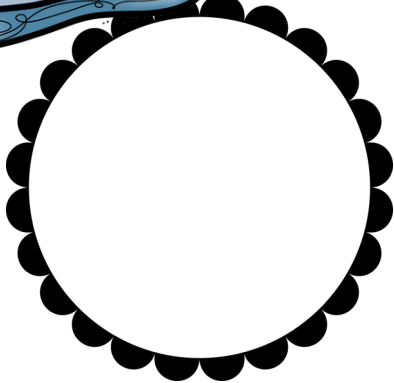
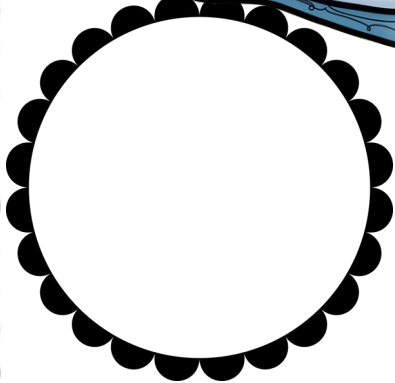
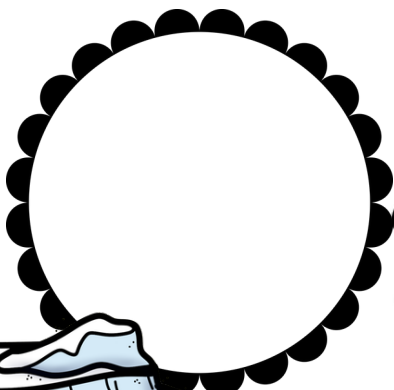
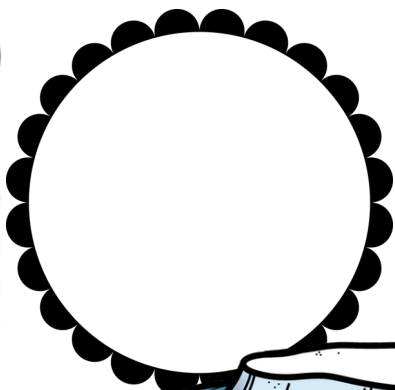
Closing (5 minutes)

- *Review together the "Vocabulary Square" activity. Students may share their sentences.

NARWHALS

NARWHAL HABITATS

Directions: In the circles below, write down characteristics of habitats that narwhals might live in.



NARWHALS

VOCABULARY SQUARE

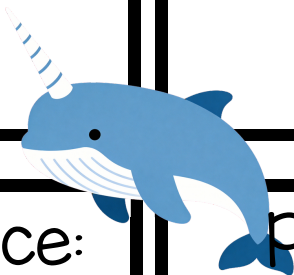
Word:

blubber

Definition:

Sentence:

Picture:



NARWHALS



LESSON PLAN

Day Three: What Narwhals Eat

Objective: The students will be able to identify what narwhals eat and how they get their food.



LESSON PLAN: DAY THREE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are diving deeper in to what narwhals eat and how they get their food. Narwhals are carnivores, which means they eat other animals. Their main diets consist of arctic cod, halibut, squid, shrimp, octopus, cuttlefish and other small fish. They are excellent divers and use echolocation & excellent hearing to find food.

Echolocation is when they make sounds and listen for echos off of other animals. Narwhals do not use their long tusks to hunt. They suction food in using their mouths.

NARWHALS

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The students will watch the video, "Our Planet: Narwhals" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVwYygnGkPE>

- *Questions to ask after watching the video: Do narwhal's tusks help them find food? Why or why not? Why do you think narwhals migrate to bays or more coastal areas in the summer? What do narwhals eat?

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will complete the "Narwhal Unscramble" attached below. Each word is associated with what a seal eats.

Closing (5 minutes)

- *The teacher will give each student a sticky note or index card. They will write three things that narwhals eat!

NARWHALS

NARWHAL UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a narwhal's diet.

F S I H

S U I Q D

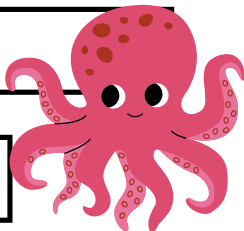
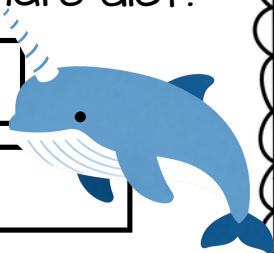
C T T U L E F S H I

O P U S C O T

H B A L U T I

S P H R M I

C D O



NARWHALS

LESSON PLAN

Day Four: Narwhal Families

Objective: The students will be able to describe how narwhal families live and interact.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY FOUR

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we will be exploring more about narwhal families. Narwhals are very social animals and live in groups called pods for the majority of their lives. Pods can have up to twenty narwhals and as few as two or three. A baby narwhal is called a calf. Mothers give birth to live young and can nurse for more than a year. The mother narwhal teaches her babies how to swim, dive, drink milk, find breathing holes, avoid predators and survival skills.

NARWHALS

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The teacher will read the book, "Little Narwhal Lost: A Tale of Found Family". Questions to ask after reading: What type of animal is a narwhal? Why do narwhals travel in groups called pods? What is a baby narwhal called? How are beluga whales different and alike to narwhals? What dangers might a young narwhal face?

- *The students will complete the Vocabulary Match Up activity sheet.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will use the template attached below to write a 4-5 sentence paragraph about narwhal families and how narwhals interact.

Closing (5 minutes)

- *In partners, the students will share their paragraphs with each other.

NARWHALS

VOCABULARY MATCH UP



calf

a large group of
narwhals
gathering
together



pod

when a calf
drinks its
mother's milk



blubber

a baby
narwhal

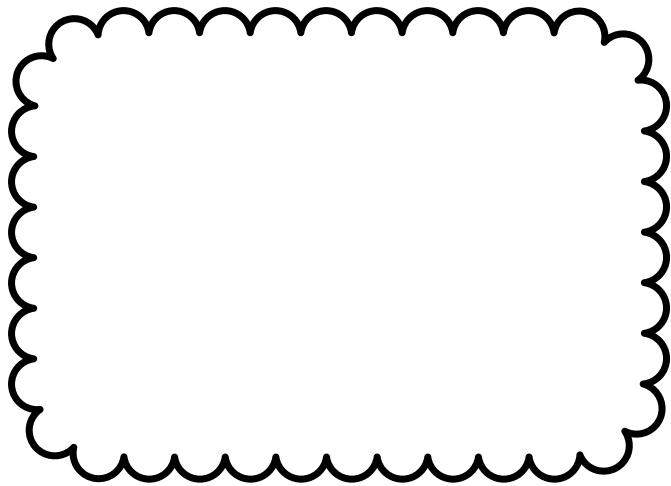


nurse

a thick
layer of fat

NARWHALS

Narwhal Families

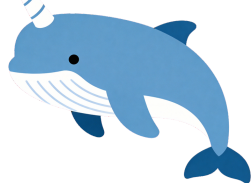


Five sets of horizontal dashed lines for writing.

NARWHALS

LESSON PLAN

Day Five: Narwhal Adaptations



Objective: The students will be able to describe adaptations of narwhals and how they help them to survive in harsh conditions.

LESSON PLAN: DAY FIVE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are going to be learning more about adaptations of narwhals. What is an adaptation? An adaptation is a special feature or behavior that helps an animal survive. The narwhal lives in very harsh arctic conditions, so it has special features to help it survive. A few narwhal adaptations include thick blubber, a long tusk, no dorsal fin, deep diving, echolocation, a flexible neck, mottled skin, powerful tail flukes, living in pods and breathing through a blowhole.

NARWHALS

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The teacher will read the book, "Narwhal (A Day in the Life: Polar Animals: Heinemann Read and Learn). Questions to ask: What special features do narwhals have? How do these features help them survive in the arctic?

- *The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Narwhal Adaptations" graphic organizer attached below. In each square, the students will describe an adaptation that helps narwhals to survive in their ecosystem.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will complete the "Narwhal Quick Check" attached below to assess understanding from the lesson.

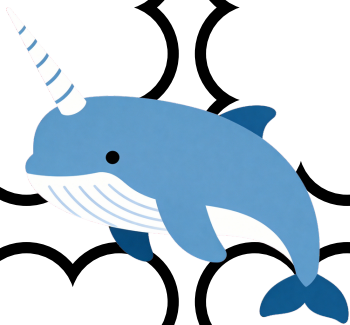
Closing (5 minutes)

- *The students will discuss with the class what their favorite part of the unit was!

NARWHALS

ADAPTATIONS

Directions: Write an adaptation of a narwhal that helps it to survive in the harsh arctic.



NARWHALS

NARWHAL QUICK CHECK

1. Why do narwhals need blubber?

2. What are other narwhal adaptations?

3. What is echolocation and what is it used for?
