



ONE OF THE BOYS: A NARWHAL AND HIS BLENDED FAMILY

By Dana Woodhouse

*Dedicated to Christy Vosseller, who loves all things narwhal

It's hard to be alone in this world. It's even harder when you wander into new TERRITORY. We tend to stick to our own for SAFETY and SECURITY, not letting outsiders into our inner circle. So when a lone NARWHAL (a type of whale) swam alone along the ST LAWRENCE river, which flows from LAKE ONTARIO to the ATLANTIC OCEAN, one could assume that things weren't going well for our little CETACEA (aquatic mammal) friend.

Spell TERRITORY. Spell SAFETY. Spell SECURITY.

What type of whale are we talking about today? NARWHAL

Which river was he swimming along? ST LAWRENCE

The St Lawrence flows between two bodies of water. Name one. LAKE ONTARIO, ATLANTIC OCEAN

Another name for an aquatic mammal is a _____? CETACEA

But never underestimate the ABILITY to adapt! RESILIENCE (toughness) comes in many forms and LOVE knows no color, shape, or SPECIES! For our mighty narwhal friend, who had previously found himself without a FAMILY, decided to make his own.

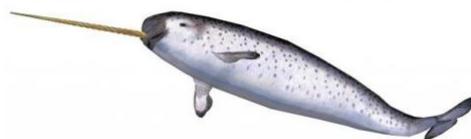
Spell ABILITY. Spell LOVE. Spell SPECIES.

The term for toughness is _____? RESILIENCE

Our narwhal decided to make his own what? FAMILY

According to the lesson, love knows no what? COLOR, SHAPE, SPECIES

How might parents who can't have their own children go about creating their own family? ADOPT



Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



For three years in a row, starting in 2016, the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals (GREMM) have captured VIDEO footage of a GREY, SPECKLED and single TUSKED narwhal CAVORTING (playing) among a pod of white BELUGAS. They swim closely together, near the surface of the water. When the belugas blow BUBBLES, so does the narwhal. In fact, scientists noticed that the INTERACTIONS (how they behave towards each other) between the narwhal and the belugas appear to be IDENTICAL (same) as the belugas amongst themselves. As far as the male JUVENILE (teenage) belugas are concerned, the narwhal is just another one of the boys.

Spell VIDEO. Spell GREY. Spell SPECKLED.

What year was the narwhal first discovered? 2016

Another word for playing is ___? CAVORTING

What type of whale is the narwhal living with? BELUGAS

Name one description of the narwhal from this paragraph. GREY, SPECKLED, TUSKED

The ways in which we behave towards each other is also called what? INTERACTIONS

The interactions between the belugas and the narwhal appeared to be the same.

What is another word that means the same? IDENTICAL

What did the belugas blow? BUBBLES

Another word for teenage is ___? JUVENILE

Since the first sighting of the narwhal was in 2016, how many years can we guess he has been living with his beluga brothers?

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An acronym is a word or name formed as an abbreviation from the individual first letters in a phrase or word. For example, GREMM is the acronym for Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals. Can you think of another acronym you've heard before?

Narwhals and belugas have many things in common. Both whales are known to be very SOCIAL (friendly). Both make a variety of CLICKS and CHIRPS to communicate. They come from the same family, MONODONTIDAE. They also share overlapping TERRITORIES (areas where they live). Despite this, these whales have RARELY been seen MINGLING in the wild. Each is a DISTINCTIVE (unique) species, especially when it comes to HUNTING. Narwhals prefer to DIVE for their dinner in deep, ice covered waters while belugas get their dinner in the clear, SHALLOW waters along coast. Despite sharing some territories, both groups tend to be in different places, especially in SUMMER.



Spell RARELY. Spell SUMMER. Spell MINGLING.

Both whale types are known to be friendly. Another term for this is ___? SOCIAL

Both whales make a variety of noises to communicate. Name one. CLICKS, CHIRPS

Narwhals and belugas share overlapping ___? TERRITORIES

Each is a distinctive species, especially when it comes to what? HUNTING

Narwhals prefer to what for their dinner? DIVE

Belugas get their dinner in what kind of waters? SHALLOW, CLEAR SHALLOW

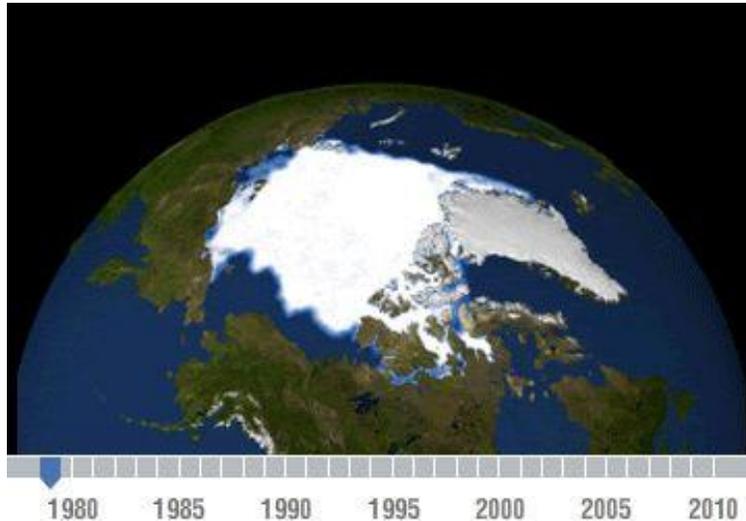
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What is the name of the family that narwhals and belugas belong to?
MONODONTIDAE Do narwhals prefer DEEP waters or COASTAL waters? DEEP
Can you name another type of whale that reminds you of a narwhal or beluga?



The narwhal was found 620 miles SOUTH of its ARCTIC HABITAT (natural area), leading many to wonder: how did he end up in the St. Lawrence River? Scientists at GREMM POSIT (guess) that CLIMATE CHANGE may be to blame. As the amounts of melting sea ice has increased, the sea ECOSYSTEM has been thrown out of BALANCE. This has forced whales like the narwhal to travel further in search of food. Belugas, for example, have been seen as far south as NEW JERSEY. Because both species are wandering further out of their traditional territories, researchers believe they might find themselves in each other's company more often in the future.

Spell SOUTH. Spell BALANCE.

The narwhal was found how many miles south of its natural territory? 620

Is 620 closer to 500 or 1000?

What type of habitat does the narwhal live in? ARCTIC

What's another word for guess? POSIT

What may be to blame for the narwhal wandering so far? CLIMATE CHANGE The sea ecosystem has been thrown out of what? BALANCE

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Belugas have been seen as far as which state? NEW JERSEY

What is the opposite direction of south? NORTH

Why would the arctic ice melt throw the sea ecosystem out of balance?

If narwhals and belugas find themselves in each other's company more often in the future, does that mean there's a chance that BABIES may follow? In other habitats, GRIZZLY and POLAR bears have been seen together as each wanders further out in search of food.

INTERBREEDING (mating between two species) has been observed, leading to the birth of what has been called the "PIZZLY" or "GROLAR" bear. So what would we call the OFFSPRING of a narwhal and a beluga? Some have already chosen the name NARLUGA. In fact, a skull found in GREENLAND in the 1990s is thought to be that of a narwhal and beluga HYBRID (offspring of two different species). It's skull resembled both types of whale, only bigger! Love always finds a way.

Spell BABIES. Spell OFFSPRING.

Name one of the two types of bears seen together.

GRIZZLY, POLAR

Mating between two species is also called ___? INTERBREEDING

What is one of the names given to the offspring of a grizzly and polar bear?

PIZZLY, GROLAR

What has the offspring of a narwhal and beluga been named? NARLUGA The offspring of two different species is called a ___? HYBRID

In which country was a NARLUGA found? GREENLAND

How many years ago was 1990?

VAKT:

Using two pictures of a narwhal and a beluga, cut into quarters, have the student combine the pieces into what they feel a Narluga would look like in real life.



CREATIVE WRITING:

The Inuit people of the ARCTIC have a legend about how the narwhal came into existence. It was said that a woman was standing near the ocean while a pod of belugas swam by the ice. She had been cruel to her step son and he tied her to one of the whales. She fell into the water and braided her hair together into a single strand before turning into a narwhal and swimming away.

Write a legend about how a narwhal came to live amongst a pod of belugas.

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S2C (Spelling to Communicate) Practitioner since 2017. Endorsed by International Association for Spelling as Communication (I-ASC). Mentor for I-ASC practitioner training cohorts. BA in Sociology, Graduate Certificate in Elementary Education, Humboldt State University. I am the parent of a nonspeaking autistic son who uses S2C. I've seen how communication changes lives. I'm trained to work with beginning to fluent communicators. I'm also experienced in education, motor planning, and regulation issues.

The mission of I-ASC is to advance communication access for nonspeaking individuals globally through [training](#), [education](#), [advocacy](#) and [research](#). I-ASC supports all forms of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) with a focus on methods of spelling and typing. I-ASC currently offers [Practitioner training in Spelling to Communicate \(S2C\)](#) with the hope that other methods of AAC using spelling or typing will join our association

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