



Polar Animals Text Features

by
Peas in a Pod

Label the text features in the passage, and answer the questions below.

Arctic Fox

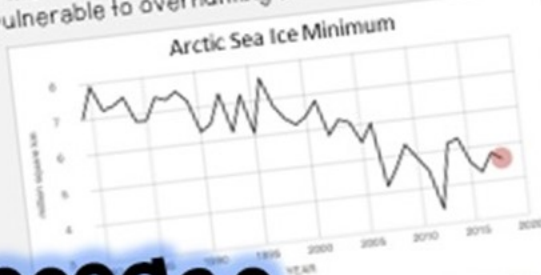


The Arctic fox is primarily a carnivore that lives inland, away from the sea. They are dependent on the presence of smaller animals (most often lemmings) to survive. Arctic foxes also hunt for sea birds, fish, and other marine life. Smaller rodent populations waver between times of abundance and scarcity, which leaves the Arctic fox vulnerable when these creatures are low in numbers.

The Arctic fox was impacted a lot by the fur trade because of its extremely high quality pelt. It's still hunted now for its fur, mostly by native populations who live in close proximity to them. The fur trade has decreased dramatically and the Arctic fox is not as vulnerable to overhunting as it once was.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Temperatures in the Arctic are rising at twice the rate of the rest of the world. Warming temperatures are linked to many changes in the Arctic, including reduced sea ice, reduced permafrost, and rising sea levels.



7 Passages

<http://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice/>

Answer the questions below.

Polar Bears

Polar bears are marine mammals that live on the sea ice. They have a thick layer of fat that insulates them from the cold water. They are excellent swimmers and can swim up to 100 miles per hour.

At their time of day, they consist of large groups. They need large areas of sea ice to hunt.

Due to their sea ice dependence, polar bears are a species that is highly vulnerable to climate change.

STATUS	Vulnerable
POPULATION	22,000-31,000
SCIENTIFIC NAME	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>
WEIGHT	800-1,300 pounds
LENGTH	6-9 feet
HABITATS	Arctic sea ice



Polar bear in captivity

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Text Features


Polar Animals Reading Comprehension Passages

Students will learn about polar animals by labeling the text features and answering comprehension questions. There are 7 reading comprehension passages for each polar animal (polar bear, emperor penguin, Arctic fox, narwhal, walrus, brown bear, and whale). Each passage also addresses climate change and its effects on the environment. *Answer keys are included.*

I use these interdisciplinary worksheets after introducing text features. This is a great way to incorporate science, reading comprehension, and a winter theme into one lesson! The features to be labeled include:

- Title
- Headings
- Graphs
- Key words
- Hyperlink
- Photographs & Illustrations
- Timeline
- Caption
- Label
- Map
- Bullets
- Sidebar

Common Core Standards: RI 2.5, RI 2.7, RI 3.5, RI 3.7, RI 4.7
TEKS: 3.13 (D) 3.13 (A) 3.13 (B)



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Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.

Polar Bears

Polar bears are classified as marine mammals because they spend most of their lives on the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean. They have a thick layer of body fat and a water-repellent coat that insulates them from the cold. They are talented swimmers and can swim at a pace of six miles per hour.

Polar bears spend over 50% of their time hunting for food. Their diet mainly consists of ringed and bearded seals because they need large amounts of fat to survive.

Their population is declining because their sea ice habitat is disappearing due to climate change. Polar bears were listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in May 2008.

The survival and the protection of the polar bear habitat is a key concern for environmentalists.



STATUS
Vulnerable



POPULATION
22,000-31,000



SCIENTIFIC NAME
Ursus maritimus



WEIGHT
800-1,300 pounds



LENGTH
6-9 feet



HABITATS
Arctic sea ice



Polar bear in captivity

1. How big are polar bears?

2. Why are polar bears listed as endangered animals?

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.

Polar Bears

Title

Polar bears are classified as marine mammals because they spend most of their lives on the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean. They have a thick layer of body fat and a water-repellent coat that insulates them from the cold. They are talented swimmers and can swim at a pace of six miles per hour.

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Their population is declining because their sea ice habitat is disappearing due to climate change. Polar bears were listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in May 2008.

Key word

The survival and the protection of the polar bear habitat is a key concern for environmentalists.

Caption



STATUS
Vulnerable



POPULATION
22,000-31,000



SCIENTIFIC NAME
Ursus maritimus



WEIGHT
800-1,300 pounds

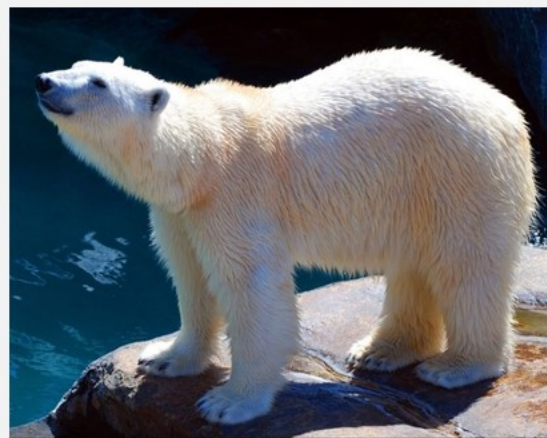


LENGTH
6-9 feet



HABITATS
Arctic sea ice

Sidebar



Polar bear in captivity

1. How big are polar bears? *Answers may vary.*

Polar bears are 800-1,300 pounds and between 6-9 feet in length.

2. Why are polar bears listed as endangered animals?

Polar bears are a threatened species because their population is declining due to loss of their sea ice habitat.

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.

Emperor Penguin



Emperor penguins are the largest of all penguins. They average 45 inches tall. These flightless animals live on the Antarctic ice and in the frigid surrounding waters.

Antarctic Adaptations

Penguins use physical adaptations and cooperate in order to deal with a harsh environment, where wind chills can reach -76°F .

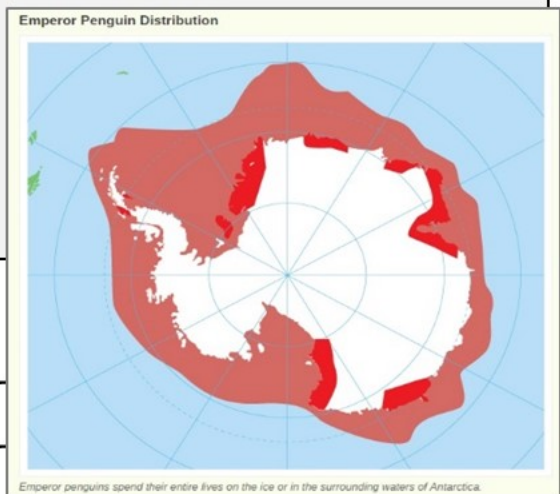
They huddle together to escape wind and conserve warmth.

They take turns moving to the group's protected and relatively warm interior. Once a penguin has warmed a bit it will move to the perimeter of the group so that others can enjoy protection from the icy elements.

Reproduction and Parenting

Females lay a single egg and then promptly leave it behind. They undertake a long hunting trip that can last up to two months! Male emperors keep the new eggs warm, but they do not sit on them, as many other birds do. The males stand and protect their eggs from the cold by balancing them on their feet and covering them with feathered skin known as a brood pouch.

In December, Antarctic summer, the pack ice begins to break up and open water appears near the breeding site, just as young emperor penguins are ready to swim and fish on their own.



1. What does the map show?

2. Why do the female penguins leave their eggs?

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.

Emperor Penguin



Photograph

Emperor penguins are the largest of all penguins. They average 45 inches tall. These flightless animals live on the Antarctic ice and in the frigid surrounding waters.

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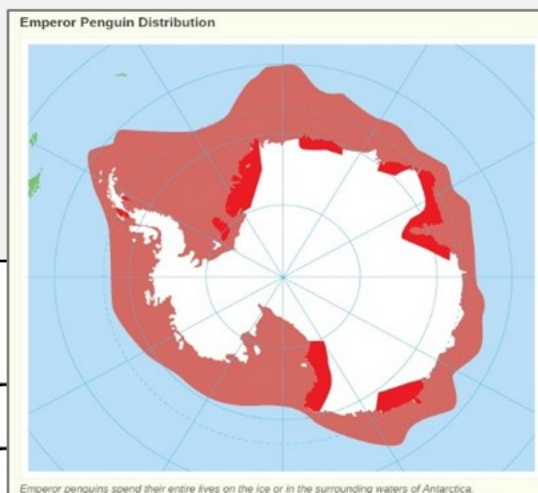
Reproduction and Parenting

Heading

Females lay a single egg and then promptly leave it behind. They undertake a long hunting trip that can last up to two months! Male emperors keep the new eggs warm, but they do not sit on them, as many other birds do. The males stand and protect their eggs from the cold by balancing them on their feet and covering them with feathered skin known as a brood pouch.

In December, Antarctic summer, the pack ice begins to break up and open water appears near the breeding site, just as young emperor penguins are ready to swim and fish on their own.

Map



1. What does the map show? *Answers may vary.*

Emperor penguin distribution

2. Why do the female penguins leave their eggs?

Female penguins leave their eggs to go on a hunting trip that can take 2 months.

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.



[] →

Arctic Fox

The Arctic fox is primarily a carnivore that lives inland, away from the coasts. They are dependent on the presence of smaller animals (most often lemmings) to survive. Arctic foxes also hunt for sea birds, fish, and other marine life. Smaller rodent populations waver between times of **abundance** and **scarcity**. That leaves the Arctic fox vulnerable when these creatures are low in numbers.

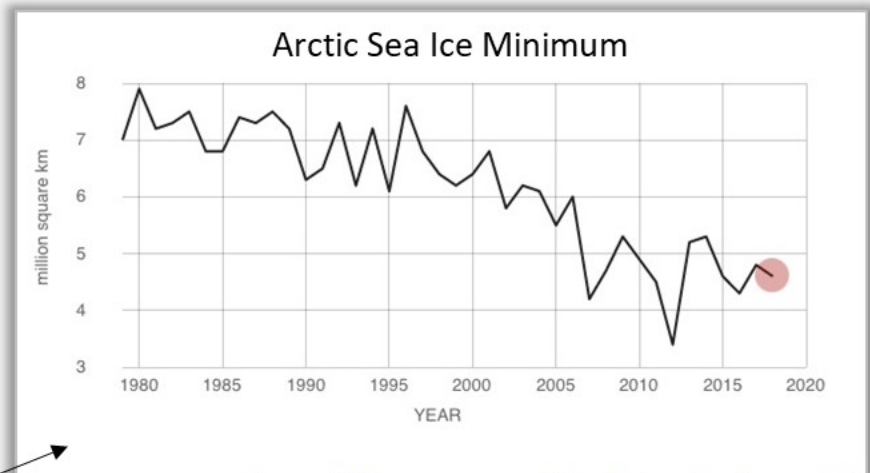
Hunting ← []

[]

The Arctic fox was impacted by the fur trade because of its extremely high quality pelt. It's still hunted now for its fur, mostly by native populations who live in close proximity to them. The fur trade has decreased dramatically and the Arctic fox is not as vulnerable to overhunting as it once was.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Temperatures in the Arctic are rising at twice the rate of the rest of the world. Warming temperatures are linked to many changes in the Arctic, including reduced sea ice, melting permafrost and rising sea levels.



<https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice/>

[]

[]

1. Why was the Arctic fox overhunted?

2. How is climate change effecting the Arctic?

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.



Title

Arctic Fox

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Hunting

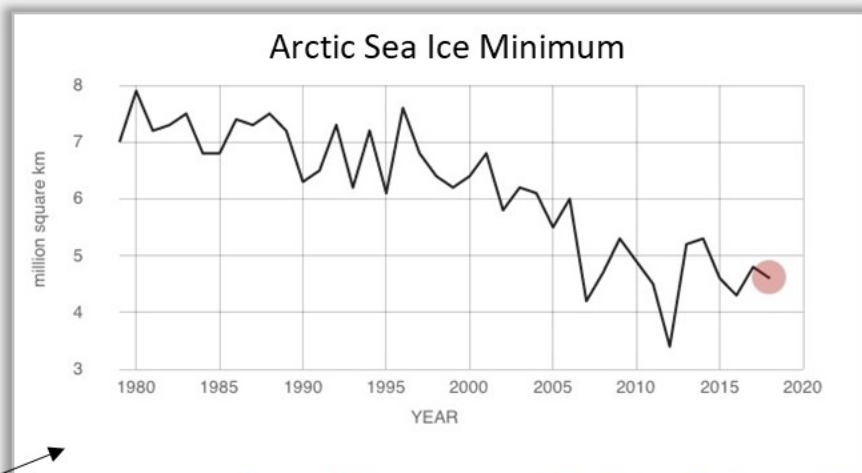
Heading

Key word

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<https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice/>

Graph

Hyperlink

1. Why was the Arctic fox overhunted? *Answers may vary.*

The Arctic fox was overhunted because people wanted its fur pelt.

2. How is climate change effecting the Arctic?

Climate change is reducing the sea ice, melting permafrost, and rising sea levels.

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.

Narwhal

A narwhal is slow swimming whale. It looks like a cross between a whale and a unicorn with a long, spiraled tusk jutting from its head. Here are some interesting narwhal facts:

- What is a narwhal tusk?

Males most commonly have tusks. The tusk is actually an enlarged tooth with sensory capability. Some narwhals have two tusks, while others have none. The spiraled tusk juts from its head and can grow as long as 10 feet.

- Where do narwhals live?

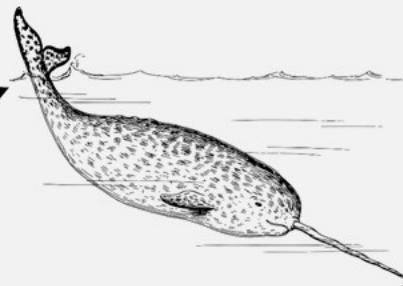
Unlike some whale species that migrate, narwhals spend their lives in the Arctic waters of Canada, Greenland, Norway and Russia. Most narwhals live under sea ice in the Baffin Bay-Davis Strait area for up to five months in winter.

- What do narwhals eat?

Narwhals feed on halibut, cod, squid and shrimp.

- What threats do narwhals face?

Oil development and **climate change** pose threats to narwhals. Shipping vessels create opportunities for collisions and underwater noise. The noise can interfere with whale communication. A narwhal's entire life is connected to sea ice, both as a place to feed and a place to hide from predators like killer whales.



1. What threats do Narwhals face?

2. Why do Narwhals need sea ice?

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.

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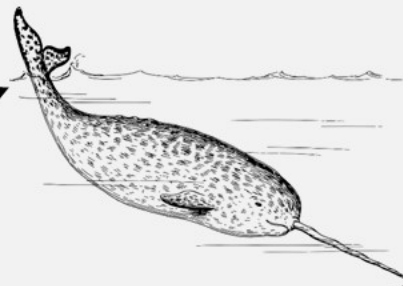
Key Word

- What threats do narwhals face?

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bullet

Illustration



1. What threats do Narwhals face? *Answers may vary.*

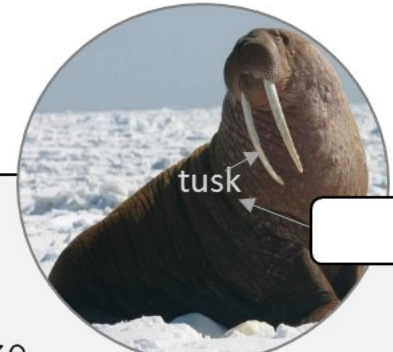
Narwhals face threats from oil development, climate change, and predators.

2. Why do Narwhals need sea ice?

Narwhals need the sea ice to feed and take refuge.

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.



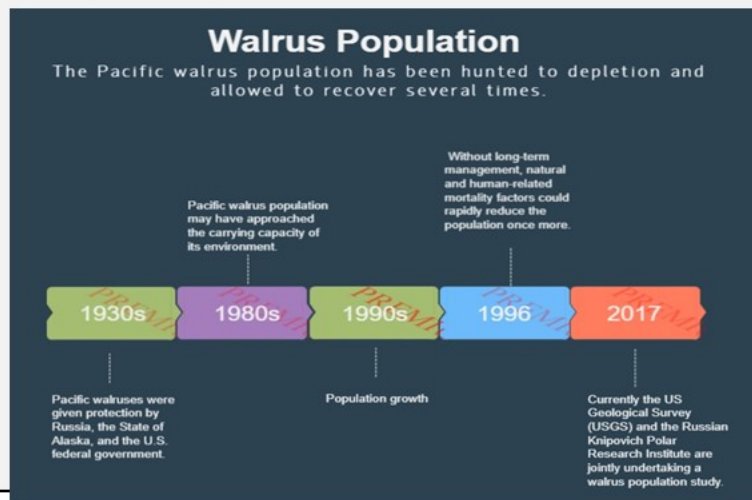
Pacific Walrus

Walrus

Pacific walrus resting on land or ice look like klutzes. They have big blubbery bodies and elephant-size tusks. However, walrus change into graceful and powerful swimmers that are perfectly evolved for life in cold Arctic waters when they swim. Above the Arctic Circle, walrus live in the Bering, Chukchi, Laptev, and Beaufort seas.

The species depends on sea ice for raising calves. They rest between feeding on clams on the sea floor and hanging out in groups. Diminishing summer sea ice has forced large numbers of walrus onto land during the late summer and early fall. On land the animals are at greater risk for conflicts with people. They may be illegally hunted, or spooked into calf-trampling stampedes by low-flying aircraft. Also, they can't feed as easily on land.

Due to climate change, increased shipping traffic through newly ice-free summer waters has exposed parts of the walrus' range to pollution and disruption. These threats have led to a petition to give Pacific walrus of the Arctic endangered species protections.

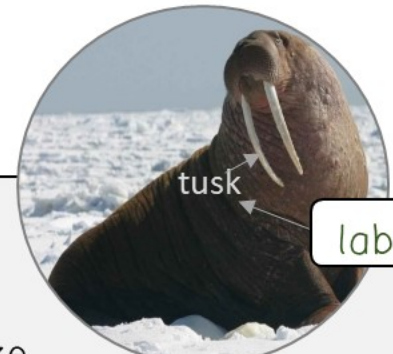


1. What happened in 1990?

2. Why do some people want walrus of the Arctic to have endangered species protections?

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.



Pacific Walrus

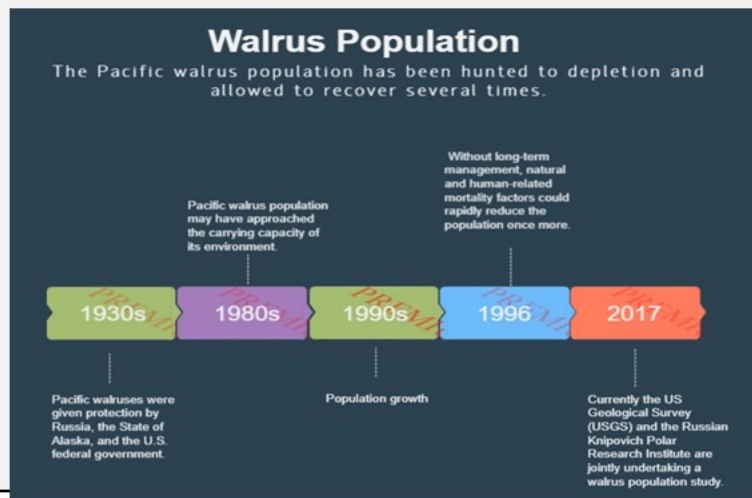
Caption

Walrus

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Timeline

1. What happened in 1990? *Answers may vary*

The walrus population grew in 1990.

2. Why do some people want walrus of the Arctic to have endangered species protections?

Climate change has exposed parts of their range to pollution and disruption. They also depend on ice to raise calves.

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.



Brown Bears

Brown bears have a way of capturing the imagination. They can walk on the soles of their feet, stand on two legs, pick things up with their “fingers,” and often eat what we eat. This—coupled with their ability to communicate with one another through scratch marks left on trees, smells and sounds—establishes a similarity to our own way of life. Brown bears are some of the largest living **carnivores** (meat eating animals). However, they have fallen prey to hunting and other conflicts with humans.

HUNTING

Brown bears were pursued extensively due to their size, valuable furs, and meat. The brown bear population now occupies just 2% of its former range. Bear gall bladders reportedly bring high prices as traditional medicines on the Asian market, although there is no evidence that products derived from bear parts have medical value.

Although brown bear population numbers are currently stable, they are considered a high priority in conservation. Brown bears are dependent on large natural areas. They are important management indicators for a number of other wildlife species. They also play important roles as predators who keep other animal **populations** in check. They also help to sustain the environment acting as seed dispersers through eating, roaming, and leaving droppings or **scat** throughout their habitat.

PLACES Arctic
HABITATS Forest
Habitat, Polar
Regions, Mountains

1. Why were brown bears hunted?

2. How do brown bears help the environment?

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.

Title

Brown Bears



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Key word

Although brown bear population numbers are currently stable, they are considered a high priority in conservation. Brown bears are dependent on large natural areas. They are important management indicators for a number of other wildlife species. They also play important roles as predators who keep other animal **populations** in check. Additionally, they help to sustain the environment acting as seed dispersers through eating, roaming, and leaving droppings or **scat** throughout their habitat.

Sidebars

PLACES Arctic
HABITATS Forest
Habitat, Polar
Regions, Mountains

1. Why were brown bears hunted?

Answers may vary.

Brown bears were hunted for their valuable furs, meat, and for their gall bladders.

2. How do brown bears help the environment?

They keep other animal populations in check and act as seed dispensers.

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.



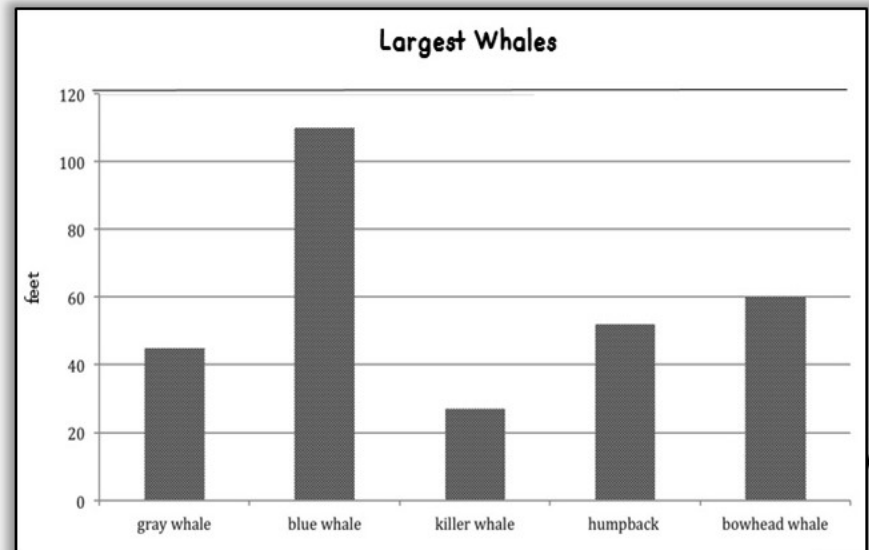
→ **Whales**

Despite living in the water, whales breathe air. Like humans, they are warm-blooded **mammals** who nurse their young. A thick layer of fat called blubber insulates them from the cold ocean waters.

Whales roam throughout all of the world's oceans, communicating with mysterious and complex sounds. Their sheer size is amazing. The blue whale can reach lengths of more than 100 feet and weigh up to 200 tons—as much as 33 elephants.

How do they eat? ←

Some whales have teeth, such as beluga or sperm whales. Other whales are known as **baleen whales**. This refers to the fact that they have special bristle-like structures in their mouths (called **baleen**) that strains food from the water. Blue, right, bowhead, sei, and gray whales are baleen whales.



1. List the whales from largest to smallest?

2. What is a baleen whale?

Name: _____

Directions: Label the text features, and answer the questions below.



Title

Whales

Photograph

Despite living in the water, whales breathe air. Like humans, they are warm-blooded **mammals** who nurse their young. A thick layer of fat called blubber insulates them from the cold ocean waters.

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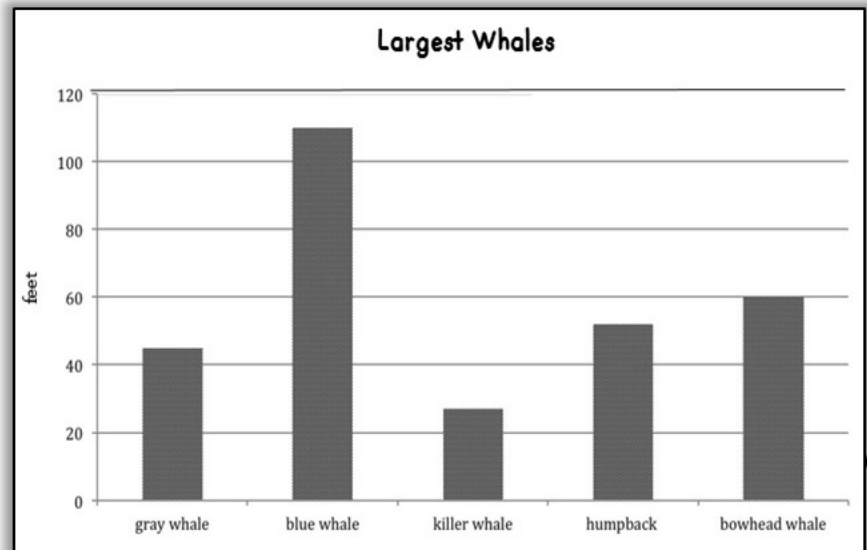
How do they eat?

Heading

Graph

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Key word



1. List the whales from largest to smallest?

Blue whale, bowhead, humpback, gray, killer whale.

2. What is a baleen whale?

They are whales that have bristle-like structures in their mouths that strain food from the water.

Related Standards:

Common Core

RI 2.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

RI 2.7 Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

RI 3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RI 3.5 Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.

RI 3.7 Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

RI 4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

RI 4.7 Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

Text Features in the TEKS:

3.13 (D) use text features (e.g., bold print, captions, key words, italics) to locate information and make and verify predictions about contents of text

3.13 (A) follow and explain a set of written multi-step directions

3.13 (B) locate and use specific information in graphic features of text

Follow on:

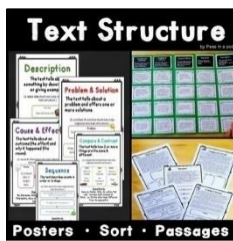
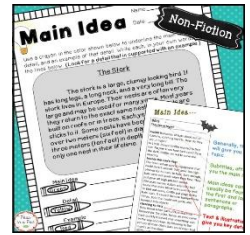
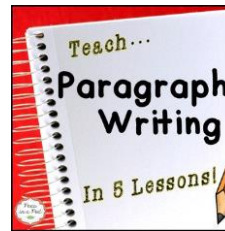
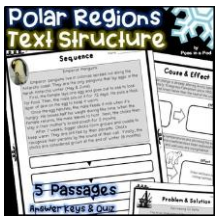
TpT



Peas in a Pod
-Lessons



You might also like the links below:



About the author: I started my teaching journey in 2004. I have taught kinder - 8th, thanks to a few combo classes! I've district hopped three times, and that has given me a lot of insight into the needs of various communities and the teachers who work there. Being super dorky has really helped me in the classroom! I'll sing, dance, or do both to refocus my group. They roll with laughter and are ultimately drawn in by my antics. They have no idea they were just fooled into focusing! (Let's keep that our little secret.)



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