

Chirp December 2019

Teacher/Parent Resources



Chirp

Amazing Animal Walrus

Walrus Fun Facts

- Walruses are big—about as long as a small car!
- They have two long teeth called tusks that they use to pull themselves out of the water.
- Walruses eat crabs, fish, shrimp, and other sea creatures.

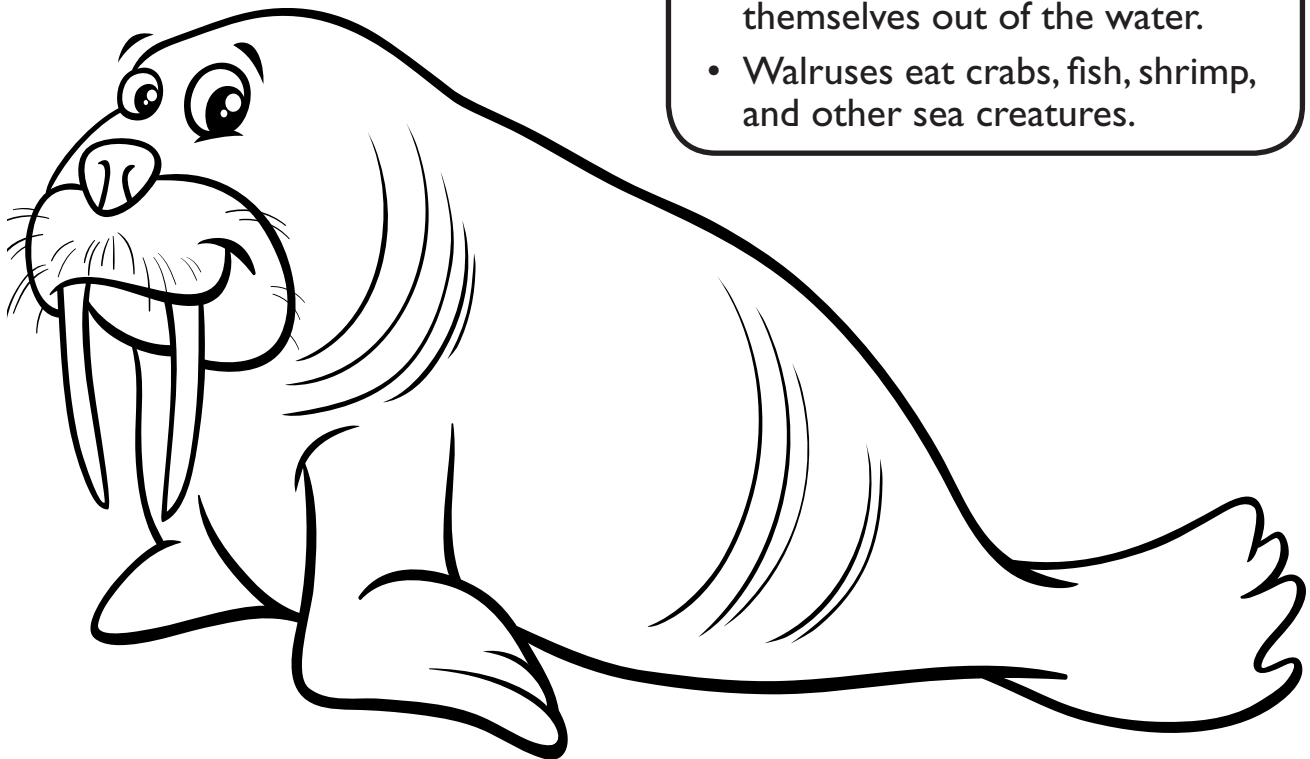


Illustration: Gettystock

How do walruses stay warm in the winter? Hint: Find the answer in *Chirp*. Then flip to Look and Learn on page 6 to see how other animals cope with cold weather.

Classroom Connections: Science: life science, animals





Look and Learn

How Do Animals Stay Warm in Winter?

Read the Look and Learn section together and pause after each text block to answer the question: how does this animal stay warm in winter?

Then have the class brainstorm other animals that need to keep warm in winter weather, such as bears, penguins, and whales. How do those animals stay warm? Organize the animals into categories, such as animals that have thick layers of blubber, those with thick fur, etc. How do animal adaptations and behaviours compare with the ways people stay warm in winter?

Follow-up Activity:

Have students choose their favourite animal and draw a picture of it staying warm in cold weather. Send your pictures to chirp@owlkids.com and we may print them in an upcoming issue!

Classroom Connections: Science: life science, animals, habitats; Language Arts: understanding informational text; Visual Arts: creating





Let's Read The Tobogganogganoggan

Read the poem aloud with your child or class and listen for the sound of the language and the patterns in the text. Notice the rhythm of the poem and how reading it aloud helps make meaning of the text. As well, examine the visual cues in the art and how they relate to and help readers understand what's in the text.

Discussion Prompts

- At the beginning of the story, Franny is described as a “loner.” What does that mean? How many people is her toboggan built to hold?
- As Franny is sledding down a hill, her toboggan grows an “oggan”. What do you think the author means by that? How many people can fit on her sled after it grew an “oggan”?
- Who joins her for a ride on her longer toboggan? Why is he nervous?
- By the end of the story, how many people can fit on Franny's toboggan? Do you think Franny changed her mind about wanting to ride alone?
- Have you ever ridden on a toboggan? In your opinion, is it more fun to sled by yourself or in a group? Why or why not?

Follow-up Activity

Read the story again and pick out pairs of rhyming words. How many can you spot? Then look around your room and choose three or four objects and, as a class, brainstorm words that might rhyme with the chosen objects. See if you can create two-line couplets using the rhyming words.

Classroom Connections: Language Arts: poetry, reading comprehension, making inferences/interpreting texts, understanding story elements

