

· ANIMALS ILLUSTRATED ·

# Walrus

by Herve Paniaq • illustrated by Ben Shannon

EDUCATOR'S  
RESOURCE



# Animals Illustrated: Walrus

## About the Book

Animals Illustrated mixes fun-filled animal facts suitable for the youngest of readers with intricately detailed illustrations to create a unique and beautiful collection of children's non-fiction books about Arctic animals. Each volume contains first-hand accounts from authors who live in the Arctic, along with interesting facts on the behaviours and biology of each animal.

In this book, kids will learn about how walruses raise their young in the cold Arctic Ocean, what they eat, and where they can be found, along with other interesting information, like the fascinating uses for their characteristic tusks.

## About the Author

Herve Paniaq is an Elder who was born around the Iglulik (Igloodik), Nunavut, area. His adopted children are Melanie, Itani, Cindy, Moses, Agnes, and Catherine. He likes to record traditional stories and legends, and he likes to tell stories. When his sisters were young, Herve would grab a comic book and tell stories about what he thought the pictures were saying. His siblings who were able to read in English would come around to listen to him, and he would tell them to go away as they knew how to read in English. They enjoyed his versions better as they were more interesting. He is the author of *Animals Illustrated: Walrus* and *Takannaaluk*.

## About the Illustrator

Ben Shannon is a Canada-born, award-winning illustrator, animator, and father of two. An alumni of Sheridan College's illustration program, Ben has worked for numerous high-profile clients, including *National Geographic*, *Rolling Stone*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Wall Street Journal*, Nike, Universal Music, Marvel, and DC Comics. Winner of the ADCC Interactive Design Illustration Award in 2008, and the Applied Arts Award of Excellence in the field of illustration in 1998, his work was also nominated for a Canadian Screen Award in 2014.

## Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- If students are reading the book independently, have them keep a list of words as they read that are unfamiliar or not understood in context. Encourage students to figure out the meanings of unknown words from the text and pictures.
- If reading the book together as a class, have students point out unfamiliar words. Give a brief definition and keep a list of these words for later review. Some possible examples: mammal, ice floe, predator, aggressive, sensitive, gender.
- Open the book and show the class the table of contents. Does everyone understand how it works? How do they think it might be useful? How does the table of contents give clues to what the book is about? Would students rather start at the beginning and read the book straight through, or go directly to the chapters that sound more interesting to them?

## During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Animals Illustrated: Walrus*. Provide students with the chance to voice their own opinions, share their experiences, ask questions, or point out anything else they may notice about the book.

- Before you read this book, did you know anything about walrus? Have you ever seen one, or a picture of one? What was the most amazing walrus fact you learned from reading the book?
- Do you remember how long a walrus tusk can grow? How would you feel if you met an animal with teeth that long? What are some of the things that walrus can do with their tusks? Can you think of any other animals that have tusks?
- Name the two natural predators that hunt walrus. Why don't walrus have more predators? Why do their predators choose to hunt baby walrus, or those that are injured?
- Can you name two reasons that humans hunt walrus? Have you ever eaten *igunaq*? Do you like the taste? How is it prepared?
- What are male walrus called? Female walrus? Baby walrus? Can you think of another animal with these same names? What do bulls, cows, and calves that live on land have in common with walrus? Do you think cows and walrus look alike? How are they different?
- What is a group of walrus called? Why do you think that walrus bulls and cows form separate herds? How can you tell bulls and cows apart? How can you tell who is the leader of the herd, the one who is most respected?
- Where do walrus find their food? They have been known to feed on the ocean floor for up to 79 hours straight! How many days is that? Could you stay underwater for over three days? Could you keep eating for over three days without stopping?



- What do walrus like to eat? Have you eaten anything that is in a walrus's diet? What do baby walrus eat when they're born? Do you remember how walrus whiskers help them find food? Can you name any other animals that have whiskers?
- A walrus can move on land or water. Where can they move the fastest? How fast? Where do they sleep? How long can they sleep?
- Can you name two ways that walrus can stay warm while they are swimming in the cold Arctic? Besides swimming, what's another way they can travel across the ocean? Would you like to fall asleep and wake up in a new location? Have you ever done that in a car or on an airplane?
- Do walrus ever attack humans? What's one way to guess that a walrus might be aggressive? How would you defend yourself if attacked by a walrus?

## Extension Activities

Have students complete one or more of these activities.

### Language Arts

Take your list of unknown words, consult a dictionary for meaning, and use each word in an original sentence about walrus.

Look at the 12 section headers in the table of contents. Write a short summary for each chapter.

Write an original story about one of these events:

- A battle between a polar bear and a walrus.
- A walrus falls asleep on an ice floe and wakes up days later in another place.
- If a walrus was sleeping and dreaming, what would the dream be about?



## Art

Draw a map or chart illustrating three or four places in the world where walrus can be found.

Walrus can weigh between 1,200 and 3,500 pounds. Research the weights of some other animals and make a poster or chart comparing them. For example, how many dogs equal the weight of one walrus? Seagulls? Caribou?

## Science

Baby walrus are called “calves.” Research and write a report that is all about baby walrus.

Choose one of these walrus characteristics, and research two other animals that share it. Write a report comparing and contrasting the three animals.

- Tusks
- Whiskers
- Flippers

