

Norbert, the Narwhal: Lost At Sea

How many times can you find the word, Norbert? (16) How many times can you find the Letters 'N,n'? (127)

Norbert was a young Narwhal calf. He was born in June in the cold Northern waters of Baffin Bay in Greenland. Norbert was 5'-2" long and weighed 210 pounds! Now, he was nearly two years old! He was getting his brown spots. He even had grown a little tooth-tusk, like the big Narwhals. His father's spiral tusk was 10 feet long! His father was called the 'Unicorn of the Sea'.

But Norbert stayed close to his mother in his family 'pod' of narwhals. He learned everything from his mother. How to dive deep down into the icy waters of the Arctic. How to catch fish, shrimp and, sometimes, a tasty 'cuttlefish'.

One day, Norbert was hunting with his mother. They were nibbling on some nice cod fish. Suddenly he saw something funny. It was a little octopus-like cuttlefish. "Yummy", he thought. He raced after the fish, but it got away. When he looked around, his mother was nowhere to be seen. Norbert was lost. Norbert had never been alone. He dove down deeper into the water. He saw a big dark animal nearby. "Are you my mother?" he 'squeaked', like narwhals do.

“No, I am not your mother. I am a Bottle-Nosed Dolphin. But I will be your friend.”

“No, thank you.” said Norbert. “I have to find my Mother. So the Dolphin went away.

Norbert swam around and around. He saw another ocean animal.

“Are you my Mother?” he asked.

“No. I am not your mother. I am an Orca and I don’t have time to talk to a little Narwhal like you!” The beautiful black and white creature turned and swam away.

Now, Norbert was worried. Then he came upon a mysterious giant animal.

“Are you my Mother?” Norbert asked.

But that great Blue Whale just moved silently by and did not even answer.

Then, from far away, Norbert heard the ‘clickings’ and ‘knockings’ of sound ‘vibrations’ that echoed through the water. Norbert could recognize his Mother’s call!

Norbert gathered all his strength and let out a great ‘whistling’ noise that moved on waves through the waters. And there was his mother, swimming fast towards him.

“Mother!” he cried.

“Yes, Norbert. I am your very own mother.”

Norbert snuggled against his Mother. Together again, they plunged deep into the icy waters to find their favorite Arctic codfish.

Norbert knew that soon, he would have to go out alone to find his own way.

But for today, he was content to just be with his Mother.

THE END

Did You Know?

- Narwhals are in the family of whales, dolphins, and porpoises
- They are found in Arctic waters of Greenland, Canada, Norway, and Russia
- They are the deepest-diving whales; able to dive over one-mile deep
- Narwhal means ‘one-tooth-one horn’
- The tusk is actually a long ‘tooth’
- Males have tusks and sometimes two tusks (females may have a small protruding tooth)
- Narwhals communicate through ‘echolocation’ (echo-location) sound waves
- They have 4” thick blubber _____

(4 inches)

- Narwhals live 50 years
- Males weigh up to 3,500 pounds and up to 16 feet in length (considered a ‘medium-size’ whale)
- They are *carnivores* - eat squid/octopus/cuttlefish, fish, shrimp
- They catch food by ‘*hoovering*’ (swimming close and sucking in mouthfuls of water with prey)
- They can live under ice and break through ice by banging their foreheads (*melons*)
- Narwhals usually live in ‘*pods*’ of 20-30, but can group in ‘hundreds’
- There are about 80,000 narwhals in the world.

Narwhal True-False Quiz

Information is in the Story of Norbert, the Narwhal – Lost At Sea, and Did You Know Sections

1. Narwhal babies are called 'calves'.
2. Narwhals are some of the biggest whales.
3. A Narwhal is called 'a sea-horse'.
4. Narwhals live in groups called 'pods'
5. Narwhals communicate through sound waves.
6. Narwhals live in warm water.
7. Narwhal 'tusk' is a 'tooth'.
8. 'Hoovering' means 'to suction'.
9. A 'melon' on a narwhal is his tail.
10. Narwhals are herbivores.

