

Expository Passage Analysis

The Walrus

Social Lives

Walruses are extremely social animals and live in large groups. They move around in herds except when males and females form separate herds during the non-breeding season. Walruses show power and authority to other walruses through non-verbal body language using their tusks and their large bodies. The largest walruses are the most aggressive, defending their mates and their space. These marine mammals are extremely sociable, prone to loudly bellowing and snorting at one another in order to communicate.

Physical Appearance

The well-known-looking walrus with the huge tusks is most often found near the Arctic Circle, lying on the ice with hundreds of other walruses. Pink and wrinkled brown hides along with their long white tusks, stiff whiskers, large flippers, and soft, blubbery bodies make the walrus a unique animal with its own set of features. Since their favorite meals are shellfish living near the dark ocean floor, walruses use their extremely sensitive whiskers as detection devices after diving down to locate this food.



- 1) Circle the topic sentence in each paragraph.
- 2) Underline the most important supporting details in each paragraph.
- 3) Add your own caption to the image by writing something in the box that adds to the passage (but doesn't actually repeat what is already stated).
- 4) Write a more interesting title for this selection.
- 5) What is the purpose of this article? (Inform, persuade, explain, describe)

7.1.3s Expository Passage Analysis