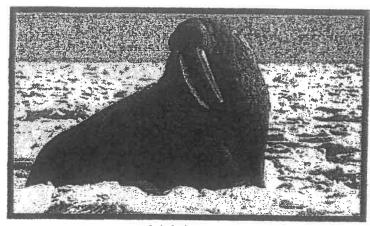
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NTI DAY# 1-Reading



Walrus

The walrus is a fascinating marine mammal that lives in the arctic regions of the world. When you look at a walrus, there's no question one of the first things you see is their beautiful long tusks. These tusks help the walrus do many things. Their tusks can be used for digging for food on the ocean floor, fighting with other walruses and they can even be used to help pull themselves up out of the water. The walrus' sheer size of 1,800 to 3,700 pounds, makes this task seem unbelievable! A walrus is covered by thick skin and a layer of blubber to help keep it warm in the icy arctic waters. The walrus social structure is very complex and they have a high level of communication. Walruses also have a desire for physical contact so they establish large herds where every walrus has a place. In the wild, this is the reason you may see groups of thousands of walruses laying together on ocean rocks. Each walrus can move up or down in the herd and they all seem to know where their place is within the herd. For example, males and females are grouped in different herds, as well as females that have just had offspring. The females are very protective of their young and will raise and care for them for about 2 years before they are ready to be on their own. The mother will feed her baby milk and it will pack on at least a pound and a half of blubber each day! A walrus has a limited amount of natural predators in the wild. The killer whale and the polar bear may attack a walrus for a meal, but humans used to be the walrus' number one enemy. The walrus was frequently hunted for their tusks, blubber and skin. Luckily, this typed of hunting was outlawed and the walrus population has recovered nicely.

Name:

Writing About Reading

On the back, write to explain why a walrus could be considered an intelligent animal. Use specific examples from your text to support your answer!

Underline the part in the text that supports your answer.

- 1. What does the word herd mean in this passage?
- 2. How does the walrus use its tusks?
- 3. What predators does the walrus have?

4. Explain how the mother walrus takes care of her baby.

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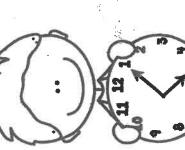
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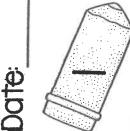




7. Name this shape.

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