

KEY DETAILS AND INFERENCES

Read the passage and answer the questions. Also, give the supporting quote from the text as evidence.

Often dubbed the unicorns of the sea, the narwhal whale is one of the most mysterious animals. They are found in the arctic waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Canada, and sometimes as far as Greenland and Russia. These legendary animals have two teeth. In males, the tooth grows into a swordlike, spiral tusk up to 10 feet long. The ivory tusk tooth grows right through the narwhal's upper lip. Scientists are not certain of the tusk's purpose.

A group of scientists from Harvard University's School of Dental Medicine made a discovery to understand the tusk. They found that it has millions of nerves and sensors helping it to detect things in its environment. Scientists believe the whales can use it to detect how much salt is in the water, so they know where it's safe to swim. Ocean animals require a certain amount of salt in the water to survive. They also believe that the tusk can be used as a hunting tool. It can sense tiny particles in the water, which may be able to help in recognizing kinds of fish swimming nearby.

Narwhals travel in groups and feed on fish, shrimp, and squid. They are often sighted swimming in groups of 15 to 20, but gatherings of hundreds—or even several thousand—have been reported.

Not everything is understood about the narwhal yet, but dentists and other marine scientists continue to study its tusk in hopes that it will help us learn how to strengthen our own teeth.



A Mention the evidence that tells us that narwhals live in the colder regions of the world.

B Mention the evidence that tells us that the “unicorns of the sea” can keep themselves safe.

C What do we know about the traveling habits of narwhals? Also mention the evidence.

D Read the statements given below. Based on the text above, identify them as fact or inference.

1. Scientists are not certain of the purpose of narwhals' tusks.

2. Narwhals live in the colder areas of the world.

3. Scientists are working on finding the purpose of narwhals' tusks.

