



# Walrus

Tusk, Tusk



by Stephen Person

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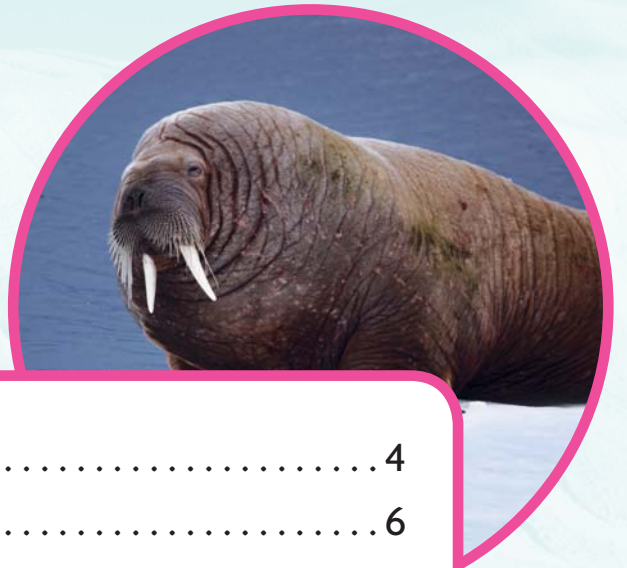
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# Adventures of a Biologist

The time is late spring, 2010. The place is the Chukchi (CHUK-chee) Sea, off the northwest **coast** of Alaska.

**Wildlife biologist** Tony Fischbach has come here to study walruses—but no one said it would be easy.



Tony has to be very careful when he studies walruses. He knows that if the huge animals see, smell, or hear a human nearby, they will dive into the water.



Tony lies flat on his belly on a piece of floating sea ice. About 150 feet (46 m) ahead lie 20 sleeping walruses. Tony crawls closer to the giant animals, silently sliding a **crossbow** in front of him. In his teeth is an arrow. Attached to the arrow is a tiny **radio transmitter**. When Tony gets within 30 feet (9 m) of the walruses, he puts the arrow in the bow and takes careful aim.



Biologists in the Arctic sometimes wear white to blend in with the snow and ice. This helps them sneak up on walruses.



# Hard Animals to Study

Tony fires his arrow. It sticks in the thick skin of a walrus. “It hardly bothers her,” Tony says. “She just lifts her head and turns to the walrus next to her with a look that says ‘What’s up?’ Then she goes back to sleep.” The radio transmitter will send information to Tony’s computer about where the walrus moves in the weeks ahead.

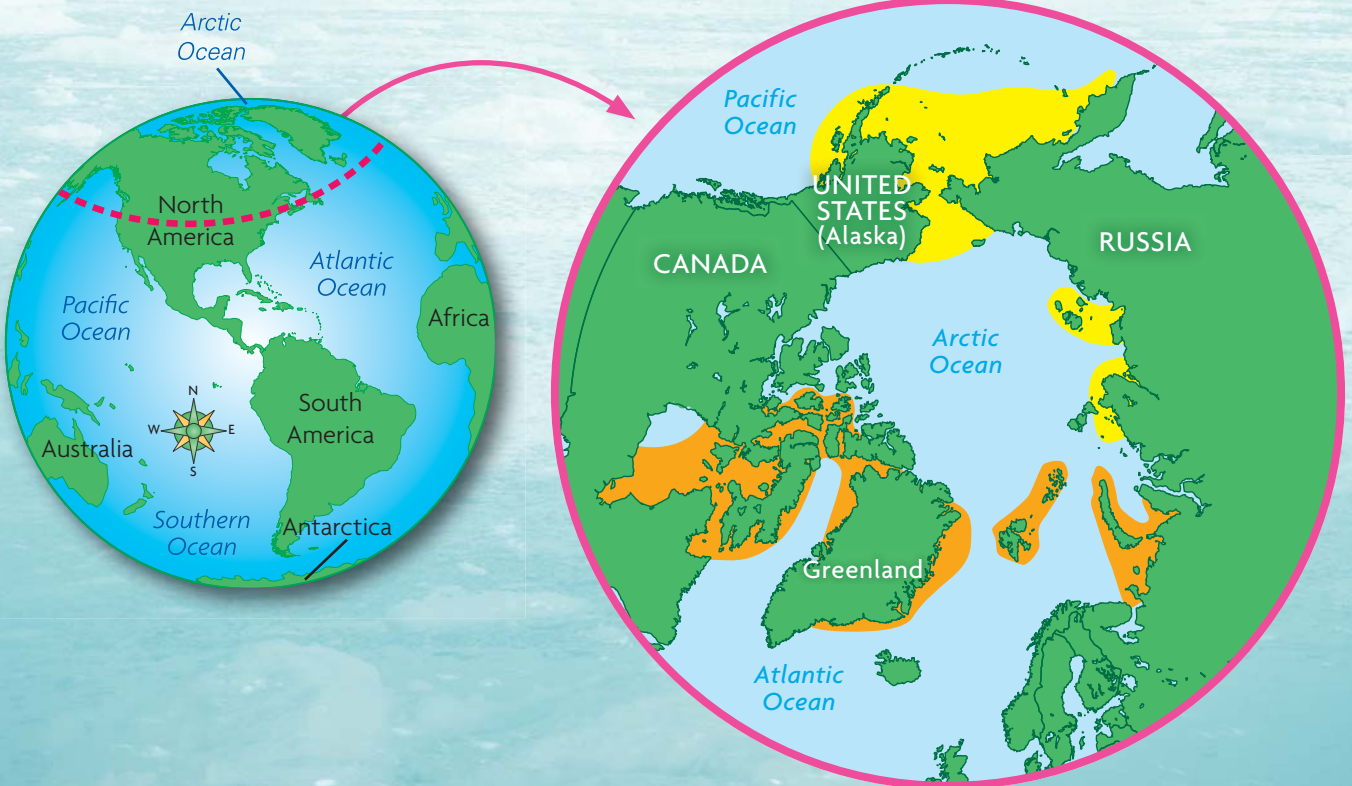


radio transmitter



“Walrus are hard animals to study, because their **habitat** is so **remote**,” Tony explains. They live only in the **Arctic region**, the northernmost place on Earth. They spend most of their lives swimming in icy ocean waters or resting on floating pieces of sea ice, called ice floes.

## Walrus in the Wild



Walrus are part of a group of **marine mammals** known as pinnipeds (PIN-uh-pedz). Seals and sea lions are also pinnipeds.

- Where Pacific walrus live
- Where Atlantic walrus live

**Scientists recognize two groups of walrus: Pacific walrus and Atlantic walrus. Pacific walrus are slightly larger. About 90 percent of the world's walrus are Pacific walrus.**

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## About the Author

Stephen Person has written many children's books about history, science, and the environment. He lives with his family in Saratoga Springs, New York.



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# Walrus

## Tusk, Tusk

The time is late spring, 2010. The place is the northwest coast of Alaska. Wildlife biologist Tony Fischbach has come here to study walruses. He crawls on his belly on a piece of floating sea ice. Ahead, about 20 of the giant animals lie asleep. Tony takes hold of his crossbow and fires an arrow carrying a radio transmitter. It sticks in the thick skin of a female. With the help of the tiny device, what will Tony learn about walruses in the weeks ahead?

Look inside to find out about the giant sea creatures that Tony and other Arctic scientists study. You'll discover how walruses are built to survive in one of the coldest places on Earth, how they hunt and raise their young—and how humans can help save them and their icy habitat.

**Arctic Wolf**  
The High Arctic

**Caribou**  
And Reindeer, Too

**Polar Bear**  
Shrinking Ice

**Sled Dog**  
Powerful Miracle

**Walrus**  
Tusk, Tusk

**Wolverine**  
Super Strong

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