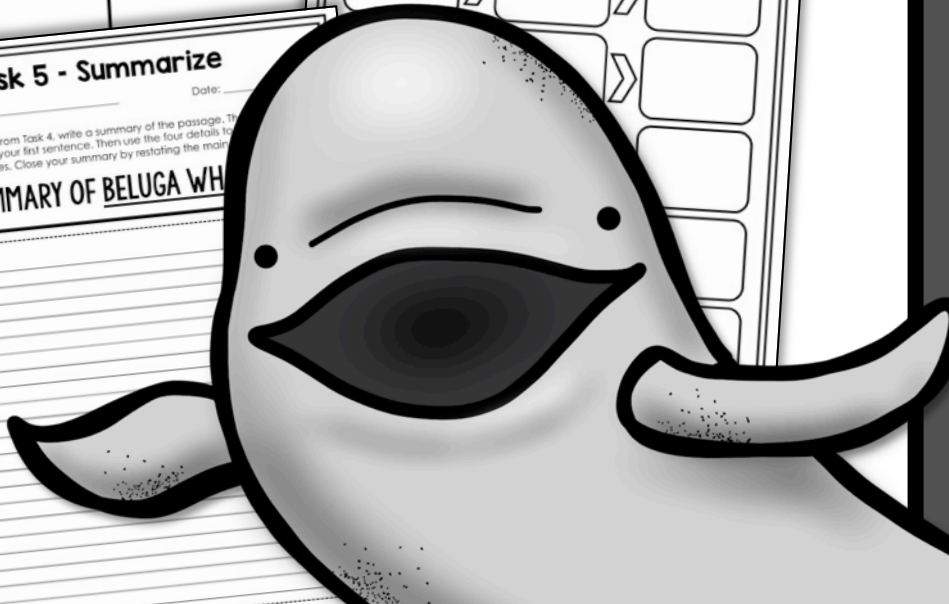


BELUGA WHALES

The image displays a collection of educational materials for a reading unit on Beluga Whales. The materials are arranged in a collage:

- Beluga Whales**: An information page with a "Margin Notes" section and a small photo of a whale.
- Task 1 - Read & Annotate**: A worksheet with instructions to use annotating marks and a list of tasks: circle powerful words, underline words not understood, place a question mark near surprising information, write an exclamation mark near a personal connection, draw an arrow for a connection, and write important thoughts in the margins. It includes "First Reading Questions" and a space to explain echolocation.
- Task 2 - VOCABULARY**: A worksheet with a table for recording words, pictures, and sentences.
- Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper**: A worksheet for rereading the passage and answering text evidence questions.
- Task 4 - Reread & Respond**: A worksheet for rereading the passage and completing a chart with main and supporting details.
- Task 5 - Summarize**: A worksheet for writing a summary of the passage.
- Annotating Marks**: A guide explaining how to use arrows, circles, and underlines to mark the text.



DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT

2 Different Reading Levels

High-Interest Passage!

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Beluga Whales

Margin Notes

The beluga whale, also known as the sea canary or melon head, is an arctic whale with many exciting characteristics. The beluga whale is a medium-sized whale, somewhere between the size of a dolphin and a true whale. The male can grow up to 18 feet. That is about the size of three grown men stacked on top of each other. It can also grow up to 3,500 pounds! Most of its weight is blubber, which is a layer of fat that keeps the whale warm.

Once beluga whales hit a mature age, they are completely white to camouflage themselves in the arctic areas and protect themselves from predators. Beluga whales also do not have a dorsal fin, like most other whales. Their backs are completely flat, and they have very round, large bodies. They also have short, broad flippers that are almost square shaped. They use these flippers to help them control their direction when swimming. They have about 40 teeth that are small and blunt.

Beluga whales live in arctic and sub-arctic areas. They spend the winter around the arctic ice cap and in the summer they migrate and move to warmer rivers and coastal areas.

These whales are very social. They are typically found in groups, called pods, of about ten whales, but in the summer when they migrate, they can gather in pods of hundreds or even thousands of whales! Imagine that sight! They also love to play together in the ocean waters.

For the most part, beluga whales eat fish, including arctic cod and Pacific salmon. They also love squid, crabs, clams, and octopuses. Beluga whales have predators that hunt them. Their largest predators are killer whales and polar bears. Inuit and native Alaskan groups of people hunt the whales, too. Even though they are hunted, there are still 150,000 worldwide!

Beluga whales are not the quickest swimmers, but they are good divers. They usually swim between two and five miles per hour. They can dive up to 2,300 feet below the surface. In order to conserve oxygen, they decrease their heart rates when they dive, so that they can stay under water for longer. They can last up to 18 minutes under water!

An interesting thing about beluga whales is that they use **echolocation**. Echolocation is when beluga whales make a series of fast clicks together to create a sound beam that can travel up to a mile a second! This sound beam then bounces off of objects and returns to the whale as echoes. This allows them to know the distance, speed, size and shapes of the objects around them! Because they cannot see very well, this is important for the whales to be able to swim and find food around them.

Beluga whales are exciting animals! Their ability to dive, unusual appearance, and amazing echolocation abilities make them a fascinating creature to study.

Beluga Whales

Margin Notes

The beluga whale is an arctic whale with many exciting characteristics. It is also known as the sea canary or melon head. The beluga whale is a medium-sized whale, somewhere between the size of a dolphin and a true whale. The male can grow up to 18 feet. That is about the size of three grown men stacked on top of each other. It can also grow up to 3,500 pounds! Most of its weight is blubber. Blubber is a layer of fat that keeps the whale warm.

Once beluga whales are fully grown adults, they are completely white. This helps them to camouflage themselves and protect themselves from predators. Beluga whales also do not have a dorsal fin, like most other whales do. Their backs are completely flat, and they have very round, large bodies. Their heads are round and curved, and they have short, broad flippers that are almost square shaped. They use these flippers to help them go where they want to when swimming through the water. They have about 40 teeth that are small and dull.

Beluga whales live in arctic and sub-arctic areas. The most popular locations are the oceans and seas around North America, Russia and Greenland. Beluga whales spend the winter around the arctic ice cap. When the ice melts in the summer, they move to warmer rivers and coastal areas.

These whales are very social. They are typically found in groups, called pods, of about ten whales. In the summer when they migrate, they can gather in pods of hundreds or even thousands of whales! Imagine that sight! They also love to play together in the ocean waters.

For the most part, beluga whales eat fish, including arctic cod and Pacific salmon. They also love squid, crabs, clams, and octopuses. Beluga whales have predators that hunt them. Their largest predators are killer whales and polar bears. Inuit and native Alaskan groups of people hunt the whales, too. Even though they are hunted, there are still 150,000 worldwide!

Beluga whales are not the quickest swimmers, but they are good divers. They usually swim between two and five miles per hour. They can dive up to 2,300 feet below the surface. In order to save oxygen, they decrease their heart rates when they dive. This makes it so they can stay under water for longer. They can last up to 18 minutes under water!

An interesting thing about beluga whales is that they use **echolocation**. Echolocation is when beluga whales make a series of fast clicks together to create a sound beam that can travel up to a mile a second! This sound beam then bounces off of objects and returns to the whale as echoes. This allows them to know the distance, speed, size and shapes of the objects around them! Because they cannot see very well, this is important for the whales to be able to swim and find food around them.

Beluga whales are exciting animals! Their ability to dive, unusual appearance, and amazing echolocation abilities make them a fascinating creature to study.



Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

CLOSE READING STEPS

The following steps are a **suggested sequence** in which you could approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of the passage, requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each passage should take one week to complete.



1st Reading: Student reads the passage. As they read, they use their annotation symbols to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they agree with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**. This task also includes some basic recall questions.



2nd Reading: Teacher (or partner) rereads the passage a second time while students follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to demonstrate their understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage, leading to a deeper comprehension of the text.



3rd Reading: Students reread the passage then respond in writing, citing text evidence. Students complete **Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper**. This page of questions requires students to cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 4: Reread and Respond**. These final tasks use the text evidence to write a supported summary.

Annotating Marks

As you read the passage, make the following marks on the text:



Circle powerful words or phrases.



Underline words or phrases you do not understand.



Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.



Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.



Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.



Write your important thoughts in the margins.

Wow! The character showed a lot of courage here...

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The first part of this packet includes 5 reading passages and one week's worth of reading activities for each passage. The Close Reading passages included in this packet are each provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may more easily differentiate your instruction. The informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All the question sheets are the same. This makes it easy for you to provide reading passages on each student's level, but use the same question and activity sheets for the entire class!

NOTE:

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Each passage with its activities is designed for a 5-day time frame, following this schedule:

Day	Title of Activity	Purpose
1	Task 1: Read and Annotate	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.
2	Task 2: Vocabulary	Read passage for the second time. Students choose vocabulary words that are unknown to them and complete the vocabulary activity using those words.
3	Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.
4	Task 4: Reread and Respond	Students use the graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
5	Task 5: Summarize	Using the completed graphic organizer from Day 4, students write a summary supporting details for the passage.

The reading levels for each differentiated passage are provided in this chart:

Passage Title	Symbol	Lexile Level
Mozart – Musical Genius	■	720
	▲	940
The History of Little League	■	780
	▲	1,000
The Sweet Story of Honey	■	740
	▲	950
George Washington Carver	■	800
	▲	1,030
The United States Constitution	■	750
	▲	930

5 Days of Close Reading Activities for GREATER Reading Comprehension

[illegible]

NO PREP!

Print and Go!

Answer Keys Provided

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper BELUGA WHALES ANSWER KEY

Text Evidence Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
Beluga whales are fascinating animals that live in the Arctic regions.

2. List three details that support the main idea:

- a) Beluga whales live in the oceans of the Arctic areas.
- b) Males can grow up to 18 feet.
- c) When they are mature, they are completely white.

3. Describe where beluga whales live during the winter. During the winter, beluga whales live in Arctic and sub-Arctic areas, including oceans and seas around North America, Russia, and Greenland.

4. Cite two pieces of evidence from the text that show that beluga whales are not quick swimmers, but are good divers.

- a) They only swim between 2 and 5 miles per hour.
- b) They can dive up to 2,300 feet below the surface of the water.

5. Give one piece of evidence that shows beluga whales are social.

They are usually found in groups.

6. Why do the whales use echolocation?

They cannot see very well, so echolocation helps the whales find food around them.

Task 1 - Read & Annotate BELUGA WHALES ANSWER KEY

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

First Reading Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage gives information about beluga whales, their habitat, and characteristics.

2. What are 2 other names for a beluga whale?

The beluga whale is also known as the sea canary or melon head.

3. What are 2 other animals that are part of the beluga whale's diet?

Beluga whales eat arctic cod, pacific salmon, squid, crabs, and octopuses.

4. Explain what echolocation is and how it works.

Echolocation is a series of rapid clicks made by the whale. The clicks form a sound beam that bounces off objects and returns to the whale as echoes. This helps the whale to know the distance, speed, size, and shapes of objects around them.