



## Lesson Plan Summary

### Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: *Narwhals and Other Whales*

#### Fact Tracking with Jack

*A research project using **Narwhals and Other Whales***

EACH STUDENT WILL:	COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read and discuss new vocabulary words and historical facts in the <b><i>Narwhals and Other Whales</i></b> Fact Tracker.</li><li>• Write a mini-research report using the Jack's Fact's worksheet.</li><li>• Track and write favorite facts from the Fact Tracker.</li><li>• Draw a diagram, illustration, or map with a caption.</li><li>• Make an acrostic poem using "topic and detail" related vocabulary words.</li></ul>	<p><b>READING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS (RI2.1, RI3.1, RI4.1)</b> Ask and answer such questions as <i>who, what, where, when, why,</i> and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. (RI2.1)</li><li>• <b>CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI2.4, RI3.4, RI4.4 )</b> Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to grade specific topic or subject area (RI2.4)</li><li>• <b>CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI2.5, RI3.5, RI4.5)</b> Know and use various text features to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently (RI2.5)</li></ul> <p><b>WRITING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING (W2.5, W3.5, W4.5)</b> With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing (W2.5)</li></ul>

FT33-1S0820

Created by: Paula Cirillo, 2009 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year, Peach Hill Academy, Moorpark, California



## Lesson Plan

### Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: *Narwhals and Other Whales* Fact Tracking with Jack

Being creative with the facts (a mini-research project)

This fun and creative activity is a way to introduce various text features and methods of expression in a research report.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

*Narwhals and Other Whales* Fact Tracker  
Copy of *Jack's Facts* notebook page (enclosed)  
Crayons, markers or colored pencils

#### DIRECTIONS:

- After reading and discussing the *Narwhals and Other Whales* Fact Tracker, either in guided reading time or as an independent activity, the students will be ready to choose and share their favorite parts of the book.
- Tri-fold the *Jack's Facts* notebook page like a brochure with the writing showing on top.
- **First column** – The students write their three of their favorite facts next to the WOW, UNBELIEVABLE, and INTERESTING bullets on the page. Model how they should write “in their own words”.
- **Middle column** – The students draw a diagram, illustration, or map of their choice using the Fact Tracker as a reference. Include a caption.
- **Last column** – The students make an acrostic poem. Acrostic poems are a creative way to show a topic and details. The students choose a favorite topic idea from the Fact Tracker and write it in all capital letters vertically on the left. Each letter in the topic word begins another vocabulary word which is a detail that is written horizontally to the right. (See the answer key for an example)

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## **IDEAS FOR NEXT STEPS (OPTIONAL)**

- Collect a “Jack’s Facts” for each of the four Fact Trackers in the cluster and store in THE BACKPACK (from the Cluster lessons).
- Put them on an “O” ring and challenge the students to see how many they can collect.
- For fourth and fifth grades, use this mini- research report as an outline for a more in-depth research report.
- Use other lesson plans associated with this Fact Tracker and the accompanying Magic Tree House book to complete other projects.

# Jack's Facts

List your 3 favorite facts.

**WOW!**

-

**UNBELIEVABLE!**

-

**INTERESTING!**

-

# Jack's Facts

Draw a diagram, illustration, or map

# Jack's Facts

Make an acrostic poem.

## Jack's Facts

List your 3 favorite facts.

**WOW!**

- The largest whales eat small animals called krill that are only about an inch long!

**UNBELIEVABLE!**

- People used to think a narwhal tusk was a unicorn horn a long time ago!

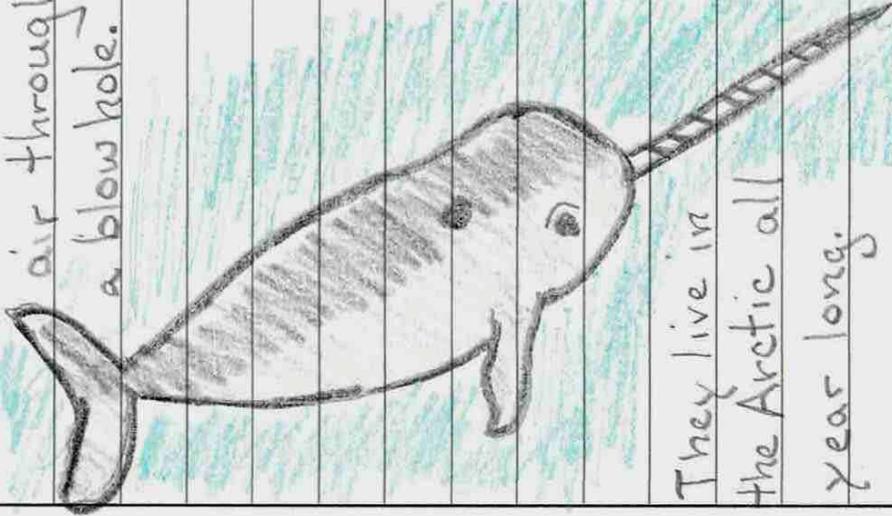
**INTERESTING!**

- A narwhal's tusk is actually a tooth!

## Jack's Facts

Draw a diagram, illustration, or map

Narwhals breathe air through a blow hole.



They live in the Arctic all year long.

## Jack's Facts

Make an acrostic poem.

**N**orth Pole

**A**rtic Ocean

**R**ussia

**W**hales

**H**umpback

**A**laska

**L**ong tusk

**S**eals