



## Beluga Whale Google Earth Guided Tour

### Belugas out of Balance

Follow the pins on the map/tour [here](#) and visit the locations to answer the following questions:

#### Location 1: [Introduction to World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#)

- a. When was the WWF established and how many countries are involved?
- b. Provide a brief explanation as to who the WWF are and what the organization's purpose is.

#### Location 2: Norway

##### [Beluga Spy?](#)

- a. Why was the beluga wearing a harness and what did it say on it?
- b. Why is this whale considered an “alleged spy”?
- c. Provide three examples of how the military uses marine mammals.

#### Location 3: Sea Life Trust Beluga Whale Sanctuary/Sæheimar Aquarium Vestmannaeyjabær, Iceland

##### [Two Beluga Whales Captured](#)

- a. What are the names of these two whales?
- b. How old were they when captured?
- c. What were the whales used for in China?

- d. *When were they placed in the Sea Life Trust Sanctuary?*
- e. *How are these two Belugas doing today?*

#### **Location 4: Qaanaaq, Greenland**

##### [The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission](#)

- a. *Describe the current habitats and distribution of this species.*
- b. *List and describe how human activities are impacting the population of belugas around Greenland.*

##### [The Whales of Greenland](#)

- a. *How many species of whales exist in this area? Which ones remain nearly year round while others migrate elsewhere?*
- b. *At what time of year is it best to view these whales? Best locations?*

#### **Location 5: Hudson Bay Manitoba, Canada**

##### [Beluga Background Information](#)

- a. *What is the typical size of both males and female beluga whales?*
- b. *What is different about the necks of the belugas as compared to other whales? What about their dorsal fin?*
- c. *Why are these whales known as “canaries of the sea”?*
- d. *What is the typical diet of belugas?*
- e. *Approximately how many offspring are produced within the lifespan of this species?*

## Location 6: Georgia, US

### [Conservation Efforts and Live webcams at the Georgia Aquarium](#)

- a. *Describe the teeth of Belugas from this source.*
- b. *Describe the reproduction age, gestation and fertility, and the care of calves.*

## Location 7: Florida, US

### [Florida Atlantic University, US](#)

- a. *Watch the video and reflect on researcher's discoveries on the social networking and kinship among this specific species of whales.*
- b. *Read through the groundbreaking research information and explain the relationships. How does this kinship compare to that of humans?*

## Location 8: Cook Inlet, Alaska

### [Protecting and Conserving the beluga whale habitat](#)

- a. *In what year was this region's beluga population considered at extreme risk?*
- b. *What are some of the benefits/reasons why this species stays in this estuary instead of migrating like other belugas?*
- c. *What is the purpose of the Aridea Terralytix Platform and how does this help with conservation efforts?*

### [In the Spotlight- Belugas in Cook Inlet](#)

- a. *What is the biggest contributing factor to this population's decline in Cook Inlet?*
- b. *Since 1979, how much of this region's beluga population are left?*
- c. *Describe the beluga's location within the Cook Inlet. Do they migrate?*

Marine Mammal Protection Act

- a. *When was the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) put in place?*
- b. *What federal agencies and Indigenous People's Council are involved in this act?*
- c. *What is the goal of this act? What actions are being taken? Any success or barriers?*