

What are walrus tusks?

Walruses have very long, sharp teeth called *tusks*. These tusks grow from their upper jaw and can be more than a meter long!

How do walruses use their tusks?

- **Climbing onto ice:** When a walrus wants to rest or sleep on an iceberg or big piece of ice, it uses its tusks like strong hooks. The walrus digs its tusks into the ice to help pull its heavy body up and out of the cold water.
- **Defending themselves:** Walruses also use their tusks to protect themselves from animals that might want to harm them, like polar bears or other walruses. The tusks make them look bigger and stronger, and they can be used to fight if needed.
- **Other uses:** Walruses sometimes use their tusks to move around on the ice or to help find food under the sea floor.

Why are tusks a versatile tool?

The word *versatile* means something that has many different uses. Walruses' tusks are versatile because they help with climbing, defending, and other important activities, making them very helpful in the walrus's life!