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**(The following facts go with *Little Narwhal’s Day* by Angela Castillo)**

**Fun facts about the**

**Arctic’s Secret Creatures**

▶ The horn of a narwhal is really a tusk, or tooth, much like an

elephant’s. They actually have two teeth, but most of the time only

one grows into a tusk.

▶ Whistles and clicks are just two of the many sounds narwhals make.

They use noises for echo location, to communicate, and just because.

▶ For a long time, scientists believed tusks were used to break through

the ice or for defense, like a sword. But no one has seen narwhals

do any of these things. Narwhals might use their tusk, which is very

sensitive, to test the temperature of the water surrounding them.

▶ Ribbon seals can move across the ice as fast as a man can run for

short distances.

▶ The beautiful white coat of an Arctic fox turns to a splotchy brown in

the summer, after the snow melts, to help it blend into the dirt and

rocks of the tundra.

▶ Beluga whales are the narwhal’s closest cousins, and they have even

been found sharing a family group, or pod together.

▶ The oldest Arctic char found was believed to be forty years old!

▶ Narwhals can stay underwater for up to 25 minutes. They breathe

from blowholes on the tops of their heads.

▶ Northern lights can be many colors, including red, green, pink, blue

and white.