

# Songbirds of the Sea

Beluga whales make lots of noise. They click, whistle, squeal, and grunt. They also sing. Because belugas sing so much, they are called songbirds of the sea.

Why do belugas make so much noise? Sometimes they want to talk to each other. At other times, they make noise to find things. That often means food. Beluga whales make noise for many different reasons. ●

Usually light from the sun does not reach ocean waters below about 325 feet. A beluga whale generally swims deeper than that. ● Since the whale can't see, it makes sounds. The sounds bounce off an object and back to the whale. This tells the whale where the object is. If it is a fish, the whale has found dinner.

All belugas use sound to move through ocean waters. Sound waves help a whale know where the ocean bottom is, as well as where objects are, such as rocks, boats, and icebergs.

**Strategy** Here's a question: "What generalization about beluga whales has the author made?" Look for the answer. You can find it right there in the last sentence of paragraph 2.

**Skill** Here's where you can make your own generalization. Since sunlight usually doesn't reach where a beluga whale swims, you can say that the water is dark and the whale probably can't see much.