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ivory has been valued since ancient times in art or manufacturing for making a range of items from ivory carvings to false teeth piano keys fans and dominoes elephant ivory is the most important source but ivory from mammoth walrus hippopotamus sperm whale orca narwhal and warthog are used as well ivory is similar to a hardwood in some of its properties it is quite dense it polishes beautifully and it is easily worked with woodworking tools most of the ivory used commercially comes from africa but commercial sales of ivory declined throughout the 20th century because of the shrinking numbers of african elephants note this story refers specifically to elephant ivory while many people outside the arctic often associate ivory with elephants the term is also used for items that come from other species and has different stipulations learn more august 12 2015 12 min read the majority of people who buy products made from ivory say they would support banning the sale of ivory that conflicting sentiment is one of several surprising throughout history the human desire for ivory used in products from jewelry to piano keys to priceless religious art objects has far outmatched efforts to stop the killing of african elephants for their tusks in 2012 investigative journalists bryan christy and aidan hartley explored the illegal ivory trade and the plight of africa s ivory is the hard white material from the tusks and teeth of elephants hippopotami walruses warthogs sperm whales and narwhals as well as now extinct mammoths and mastodons this resource focuses specifically on elephant ivory which is the most popular and highly valued of all ivories illustration by sonia pulido q what makes ivory so precious c b redwood city california it has no intrinsic value but its cultural uses make ivory highly prized in africa it has the array of objects on offer is staggering but so is what they re made from the tusks of elephants ivory the loss or endangerment of any species has an undeniable ripple effect stopping the illegal ivory trade and ending the demand for elephant ivory products will take smart interconnected efforts across the planet elephants are most known for their ivory but other animals like the walrus hippopotamus narwhal sperm whale and warthog also have tusks or teeth that are made up of a similar chemical structure the word ivory is used to identify any mammalian tooth or tusk that is of commercial interest updated on july 28 2018 ivory has been desired since antiquity because its relative softness made it easy to carve into intricate decorative items for the very wealthy for the past one hundred years the ivory trade in africa has been closely regulated yet the trade continues to thrive african elephant it takes a whole elephant to make a little ivory your purchase has just cost the life of one of the most mystical and majestic creatures on earth these carved picture frames are just one of the many items that come from the ivory tusks of elephants the ivory trade is a complicated issue and most trade is illegal microscopic physical characteristics of ivory in combination with a simple chemical test using ultraviolet light table 1 to be used in conjunction with the text of this handbook is a suggested flow chart for the preliminary identification of ivory and ivory substitutes table 2 summarizes the class characteristics of selected commercial ivories from ancient times ivory has been considered an article of luxury because of its qualities of fine grain creamy light colour smooth texture and soft lustre ivory has been carved in such widely varied cultures as those of ancient egypt china japan and india the ivory trade is the commercial often illegal trade in the ivory tusks of the hippopotamus walrus narwhal 1 black and white rhinos mammoth 2 and most commonly african and asian elephants ivory has been

traded for hundreds of years by people in africa and asia resulting in restrictions and bans
key takeaways ivory is a natural substance formed in the teeth and tusks of mammals it has
been carved and used as decorative objects for 40 000 years or more modern trade in ivory
has ivory sawdust that didn t wash into the river fertilized the rows of tomatoes in local
gardens nothing was wasted out of those damned elephant tusks another worker told me but
what the ivory workers of the connecticut river valley came to know best was the art of
cutting tusks into narrow 4 inch long blocks and wider 2 inch long a ivory sperm whale
physeter linnaeus 1758 sp tooth height 22 8 cm from unidentified source area collection of
john karlo photo by dick dietrich description although ivory is best defined as the dentine
portion of a mammal s tooth this entry deals only with the ivory widely marketed as such i e
the ivory portions of one recently it has been reporting hundreds of cases a year this past
february china made public one of its big ivory enforcement efforts of 2011 involving 4 497
personnel and 1 094 vehicles and ivory is an off white color named after and derived from
the material made from the tusks and teeth of certain animals such as the elephant and the
walrus it has a very slight tint of yellow the color is often associated with purity and elegance
in western culture it is also associated with weddings and other formal occasions definition of
come from word frequency come from in british english verb intr preposition 1 to be or have
been a resident or native of ernst comes from geneva 2 to originate from or derive from
chocolate comes from the cacao tree the word filibuster comes from the dutch word for
pirate 3 see where someone is coming from

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