

## Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ou (soup)

"This nonfiction text focuses on the 'ou' sound as in 'soup.' Look for words like 'group,' 'through,' and 'you' as you learn how animals stay warm!"



### How a Group Stays Warm

Some animals stay warm by living in a group.

Penguins stand close together to block the cold.

They move through the crowd to take turns near the center.

This way, each penguin stays warm and safe.

You can see this in big groups near the South Pole.

Their strong group helps them through the freezing air!

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

group

South

you

Crowd

through



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## How a Group Stays Warm

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**1. How do penguins stay warm?**

- A. They wear coats
- B. They fly south
- C. They stand close in a group
- D. They hide in caves

**2. Where do big penguin groups live?**

- A. At the North Pole
- B. Near the South Pole
- C. In warm forests
- D. On sandy beaches

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**3. Fill in the blank:**

They move \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd to take turns near the center.

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**4. How does standing in a group help penguins stay warm?**

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**5. What other animals do you think stay together to keep warm?**

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# Coaching Guide

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**Target Skill:** *ou* as in "soup" (/oo/ sound)

**Genre:** *Nonfiction – Animal Survival*

**High-Frequency Words:** *you, near, some, each, through*

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## Before Reading

1. This story uses "ou" words like *group, through, and you*.
  2. Have you ever felt warmer by standing close to someone on a cold day?
  3. What are some ways animals survive in cold places?
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## During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support: Sounding Out Support:** Remind students that the "ou" in *group, through, and you* makes the /oo/ sound.
  2. Watch for words that explain how penguins move and stay safe.
  3. How does the penguin group work together?
  4. **Fluency Tip:** Read the last line with strength and confidence—just like a penguin facing the cold!
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## After Reading

1. Retell how penguins take turns staying warm.
  2. Why do you think teamwork helps animals survive harsh weather?
  3. If you lived where it was freezing, what would you do to stay warm?
  4. Skill Check: Highlight six "ou" words in the passage.
  5. **Fluency Tip: Fluency Tip:** Read it again with a slow, calm voice—like you're watching penguins move together.
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## Activity Idea

Draw a group of penguins standing close together in the cold. Label parts using "ou" words like *group, through, you, crowd, South, or move*. Write one sentence about how the penguin group stays strong.

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## Coaching Tip

Let science topics bring phonics to life—students love learning how animals survive while practicing new words!

