

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



Penguins huddle to stay warm.

How do Penguins Stay Warm?

Penguins live in cold places like Antarctica. The weather there is snowy, windy, and freezing! But penguins do not freeze. Why not?

Penguins have special feathers that keep their bodies warm. These feathers are short, thick, and close together. They work like a warm jacket. Under the feathers, penguins also have a thick layer of fat called blubber. This blubber helps hold in heat.

Penguins work together to stay warm too. When the wind blows hard, penguins huddle in big groups. They stand close so they can share body heat. The ones on the outside take turns moving to the warm middle. Then the next penguins take a turn on the edge.

When penguins swim in icy water, their feathers trap air. This makes a warm layer that keeps their skin dry.

Thanks to feathers, blubber, and teamwork, penguins stay cozy—even in the snow!



Name: _____

How do Penguins Stay Warm?

1. What helps penguins trap heat inside their bodies?

- A. Feathers and blubber
- B. Water and snow
- C. Ice and snowflakes
- D. Wings and flippers

2. Why do penguins huddle together?

- A. To find food
- B. To take a nap
- C. To stay warm
- D. To fly away

3. Fill in the blank:

Penguins use their _____ to share heat with each other when they huddle.

4. What are two things that help penguins stay warm in cold weather?

5. Why do penguins take turns standing in the middle of the huddle?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: J

Lexile Level: 290L-440L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational (Science - Animal Adaptations)

Introducing the Text

“Today we’re going to learn how penguins survive in freezing places like Antarctica. We’ll discover how their bodies and their behavior help them stay warm. As we read, let’s think about the most important facts and try to answer questions about them.”

Vocabulary: feathers, blubber, trap, huddle, Antarctica

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about penguins?
 2. Have you ever heard of Antarctica? What kind of place do you think it is?
 3. What do you do when you feel cold?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does blubber do for a penguin?
 2. Why are feathers important to penguins?
 3. What do penguins do when the wind blows hard?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do penguins use teamwork to stay warm?
 2. Why would it be hard for most animals to live in Antarctica?
 3. Can you explain how penguin feathers are like a jacket?
-

Activity Idea

Have students draw a penguin and label the three ways it stays warm (feathers, blubber, huddling). Then, let them make a simple experiment: give one cup of ice water to hold with a bare hand and another with a “blubber bag” (plastic bag with shortening between layers). Let them compare which hand feels warmer.

