Name: _____ Date: _____

Penguins Huddle Up for Warmth

Circle group

Winter in Antarctica is very cold. The wind is strong. The ice is thick. Yet emperor penguins stay there all winter. How do they keep warm?

Part of the answer is their bodies. A penguin has a thick layer of fat under its skin. It has short, tight feathers. They block the wind and keep body heat in.

The other part is teamwork. When the wind is strong, the penguins stand close in a big huddle. Each one stands snug against the others. Less cold air touches them.

The huddle keeps moving. The penguins on the windy edge are the coldest. Slowly, they shuffle to the middle. Warmer penguins take a turn on the edge. Every penguin gets time in the warm middle.

Penguins show that sharing a hard job makes it easier.

Questions

1. Where do emperor penguins stay all winter?

_____

_____

2. What do a penguin's short, tight feathers do?

_____

_____

3. What do penguins do when the wind is strong?

_____

_____

4. Which penguins are the coldest?

_____

_____

5. Why do the penguins take turns in the middle?

_____

_____

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

_____

_____

Words to know

Antarctica: the icy land around the South Pole
huddle: a tight group standing close together
layer: one thickness of something that lies over another
shuffle: to move along with small, slow steps
teamwork: people or animals working together

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Penguins Huddle Up for Warmth

Triangle group

Winter in Antarctica is one of the coldest times on Earth. The wind is strong and the ice is thick. Yet emperor penguins stay there all winter long. How do they keep warm?

Part of the answer is their bodies. A penguin has a thick layer of fat under its skin. It also has short, tight feathers that block the wind and keep body heat in.

The other part of the answer is teamwork. When the wind blows hard, the penguins stand close together in a big huddle. Each penguin stands snug against the others, so less cold air touches their bodies.

A huddle is always on the move. The penguins on the windy outside edge are the coldest. Slowly, they shuffle toward the middle, and warmer penguins take a turn on the outside. In this way, every penguin gets time in the warm middle.

Penguins show that sharing a hard job can make it easier for everyone.

Questions

1. Where do emperor penguins stay all winter?

_____

_____

2. What do a penguin's short, tight feathers do?

_____

_____

3. What do penguins do when the wind blows hard?

_____

_____

4. Which penguins are the coldest?

_____

_____

5. Why do the penguins take turns in the middle?

_____

_____

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

_____

_____

Words to know

Antarctica: the icy land around the South Pole
huddle: a tight group standing close together
layer: one thickness of something that lies over another
shuffle: to move along with small, slow steps
teamwork: people or animals working together

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Penguins Huddle Up for Warmth

Square group

Winter in Antarctica is among the coldest seasons found anywhere on Earth. The wind howls, and the ice is very thick. Even so, emperor penguins remain there throughout the entire winter. How do they manage to keep warm?

Part of the answer lies in their bodies. A penguin has a thick layer of fat beneath its skin, and it is covered with short, tightly packed feathers that block the wind and hold body heat close.

The rest of the answer is teamwork. When the wind blows fiercely, the penguins gather in a large huddle, and each one stands snug against its neighbors, so that much less cold air can touch their bodies.

The huddle never stays still. The penguins along the windy outside edge are the coldest of all, so they slowly shuffle toward the middle, while warmer penguins move out to take a turn at the edge. In this way, every single penguin gets a chance to rest in the warm center.

Penguins demonstrate that when a difficult job is shared, it becomes easier for everyone.

Questions

1. Where do emperor penguins spend the entire winter?

_____

_____

2. What do the penguin's short, tightly packed feathers do?

_____

_____

3. What do the penguins do when the wind blows fiercely?

_____

_____

4. Which penguins are the coldest of all?

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

_____

_____

Words to know

Antarctica: the icy land around the South Pole
huddle: a tight group standing close together
layer: one thickness of something that lies over another
shuffle: to move along with small, slow steps
teamwork: people or animals working together

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Penguins Huddle Up for Warmth

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Penguins Huddle Up for Warmth

Easier · 133 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. In Antarctica.
2. They block the wind and keep body heat in.
3. They stand close together in a huddle.
4. The ones on the windy edge.
5. So every penguin gets time in the warm middle.
6. Penguins stay warm with their bodies and by working together.

Triangle: Penguins Huddle Up for Warmth

This passage · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.1

1. In Antarctica.
2. They block the wind and keep body heat in.
3. They stand close together in a huddle.
4. The ones on the windy outside edge.
5. So every penguin gets time in the warm middle, not just a few.
6. Penguins stay warm with their bodies and by working together.

Square: Penguins Huddle Up for Warmth

Harder · 177 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. In Antarctica.
2. They block the wind and hold body heat close.
3. They gather in a large huddle.
4. The ones along the windy outside edge.
5. So every penguin gets a chance to rest in the warm center.
6. Penguins survive the cold through their bodies and by working together.