

Emperor penguins | Text A

Grade 3 | ELA | Teacher model | Name: _____

(1) Emperor penguin fathers protect an egg from the Antarctic cold. (2) A father balances the egg on top of his feet, above the ice. (3) A fold of skin covers the egg and helps keep it warm. (4) Fathers gather close together in huddles during winter storms. (5) These actions help the egg stay warm while the mother is away at sea.

Read for the big idea

1. Write one sentence that tells the main idea of the whole paragraph. It should say more than the animal's name.

2. Underline two details. Write their sentence numbers and explain how each one supports your main idea.

Detail 1: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Detail 2: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Watch your teacher model the thinking. A detail tells one part; a main idea connects the important parts.

Beavers | Text B

Grade 3 | ELA | Guided practice | Name: _____

(1) Beavers change their surroundings by building with natural materials. (2) They place branches and mud across flowing water to form a dam. (3) Water collects behind the dam and forms a pond. (4) Beavers also use sticks and mud to build a lodge where they can shelter. (5) Their building work changes both the water and the places where they live.

Read for the big idea

1. Write one sentence that tells the main idea of the whole paragraph. It should say more than the animal's name.

2. Underline two details. Write their sentence numbers and explain how each one supports your main idea.

Detail 1: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Detail 2: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Bats | Text C

Grade 3 | ELA | Independent practice | Name: _____

(1) Many insect-eating bats use returning sounds to find food. (2) As a bat flies, it sends out high sounds. (3) The sounds bounce off a nearby insect and return as echoes. (4) The bat listens to the echoes to help locate its prey. (5) This way of finding things is called echolocation.

Read for the big idea

1. Write one sentence that tells the main idea of the whole paragraph. It should say more than the animal's name.

2. Underline two details. Write their sentence numbers and explain how each one supports your main idea.

Detail 1: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Detail 2: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Green turtles | Text D

Grade 3 | ELA | Exit ticket | Name: _____

(1) A female green turtle comes onto a sandy beach to lay her eggs. (2) She digs a nest in the sand with her back flippers. (3) After laying the eggs, she covers the nest with sand. (4) She then goes back to the sea, leaving the eggs buried on the beach.

Read for the big idea

1. Write one sentence that tells the main idea of the whole paragraph. It should say more than the animal's name.

2. Underline two details. Write their sentence numbers and explain how each one supports your main idea.

Detail 1: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Detail 2: sentence ____ supports my idea because ...

Use the paragraph as evidence. You do not need extra facts about turtles.