



Who, what, when, where, why & how

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Identifying the 5Ws and H—**who**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why** and **how**—can help you better understand what you read.

Read the story. As you do, annotate (underline or circle) for the 5Ws and H.

It's the middle of Antarctica's freezing winter. Unlike many places where winter only lasts a few months, winter in Antarctica lasts half the year! From March until September, the sun disappears. It becomes extremely cold and often reaches -60 degrees Fahrenheit (or -51 degrees Celsius)! Frigid winds also blow strongly, which can make it feel even colder.

Humans wouldn't be able to survive outside for very long in such brutal conditions...but emperor penguins can! Every winter, female emperor penguins lay one egg. They then leave—often for months at a time—to hunt for food in the ocean. In the meantime, groups of emperor penguin fathers huddle together to keep warm. They can't leave because they have a very important job to do.

If you look closely at an emperor penguin circle, you'll notice that the fathers are carefully balancing eggs on their feet. They balance it on their feet, because it keeps it off the frigid ice. He then covers it with a warm flap of skin to keep it safe from the outside weather. This flap of skin is called a brood pouch. Like a built-in blanket, it helps keep the egg warm!

The fathers rotate in the huddle. They take turns being in the middle where it is warmest and on the outside where they can feel the cold conditions more. They stay huddled for winter's two coldest months. They don't even take a break to eat! They are able to survive without food thanks to body fat that they stored earlier in the year.

If it sounds difficult, it's because it is! They go through all this trouble because their baby penguins are growing inside those eggs. The chicks won't survive through the winter if the eggs get too cold. The fathers therefore do everything they can to keep the eggs warm and protected.





The eggs can take more than 60 days to hatch. Often, they hatch before the mothers have come home and before winter is over. In this case, the baby penguins (called chicks) stay balanced on their father's feet. This helps make sure they stay safe until their mom comes home!

Then fill in the blanks:

Who: _____

What: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____



Answers

Answers may vary slightly.

Who: A group of emperor penguin fathers

What: Keep their eggs warm

When: During the freezing winter

Where: Antarctica

Why: To protect their eggs from the cold and wind while the mothers hunt for food

How: The fathers huddle together and balance the eggs on their feet, covering them with a flap of skin called a brood pouch.