

Name: _____

Date: _____

Emperor Penguin Dads

Grades 3-4

Nonfiction

- 1 Emperor penguins are the largest penguins in the world. They live in Antarctica, the coldest place on Earth, where winter winds can blow faster than a speeding car.
- 2 Emperor penguins are unusual because they raise their chicks during the dark, freezing winter. After the mother lays a single egg, she carefully passes it to the father. Then she walks to the sea to feed, a trip that can take many weeks.
- 3 The father balances the egg on top of his feet and covers it with a warm fold of skin called a brood pouch. For about two months, he stands in the cold and does not eat at all.
- 4 To survive the storms, thousands of fathers huddle together in a giant group. They take turns moving from the icy outside edge to the warm middle.
- 5 When the chick hatches, the mother returns with food in her stomach to feed it. The hungry father finally heads to the sea to eat. Together, the parents keep their chick warm and fed until it is ready to swim on its own.

Draw something you learned from this text.

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Questions: Emperor Penguin Dads

Read the passage again if you need to. Circle the best answer.

1. Where do emperor penguins live?

☐ a The Arctic

☐ c Australia

☐ b Antarctica

☐ d The desert

2. Who keeps the egg warm during the winter?

☐ a The mother

☐ c Other chicks

☐ b The father

☐ d Nobody

3. What is a brood pouch?

☐ a A nest of rocks

☐ c A bag of food

☐ b A warm fold of skin that covers the egg

☐ d An ice cave

4. Why do the fathers huddle together?

☐ a To play

☐ c To find food

☐ b To stay warm in the storms

☐ d To hide from the mothers

5. Explain how emperor penguin parents share the work of raising a chick.

Reading Comprehension: Answer Key

Emperor Penguin Dads

1. b) Antarctica
2. b) The father
3. b) A warm fold of skin that covers the egg
4. b) To stay warm in the storms
5. Sample answer: The father keeps the egg warm on his feet while the mother feeds at sea, then she returns to feed the chick and he goes to eat.