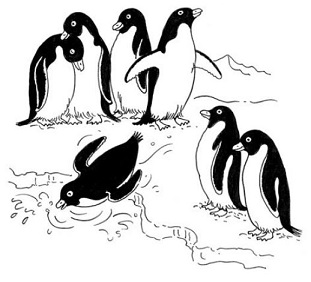
Life in the Cold

Picture a place that is covered by ice. A fierce, strong wind blows often, and the weather is always freezing. This is Antarctica, the coldest place on Earth. It might not look like a desert, but it is a dry place. Antarctica gets less than two inches of snowfall each year.

Antarctica is a harsh, or rough, land where it is difficult to live. Scientists are the only people who call it home. Plants cannot grow in the ice. Penguins, seals, and whales are some of the animals that live in Antarctica. How can they live in this frozen, ice-cold land? These animals have special ways to stay warm and find food.

The penguin is a kind of bird. Like all birds, the penguin has several layers of feathers. The feathers closest to the body are called down. These feathers are soft, which helps keep the warmer air next to the penguin's skin.



Penguins also have fat under their skin, called blubber, that protects them from the cold air. Penguins stay warm in another way, too. When it is very cold, hundreds of penguins stand together in a group. They huddle close beside each other with their bodies touching. They share the heat from their bodies to stay warm.

Even though the penguin is a bird, it cannot fly. It has flippers instead of wings. It also has short legs and webbed feet. The flippers and webbed feet help penguins swim. They speed through the water hunting for fish to eat. These birds are graceful swimmers, but penguins have an odd walk on land. They shuffle, or drag their feet, on the ice as they move from place to place.

Seals also live in Antarctica. They are very much like penguins. Seals also have blubber under their skin. They live on land and swim in the sea. They eat fish like penguins, too. However, seals are different from penguins in several ways. A seal's body is covered in thick fur that helps keep the seal warm. Also, a seal has two sets of flippers. One set is on its chest, and the other is on its tail.

Some whales swim in the cold Antarctic waters. Like the other Antarctic animals, whales have lots of blubber to help keep them warm. Even though these huge animals live in water, they are mammals and need to breathe air. Whales dive under the water to feed on shrimp, crabs, and other small sea animals. Whales must be careful when they come up to get air. If they get trapped under a sheet of ice, they cannot breathe.

It is hard to picture a place where it is always winter. Ice stretches out for miles and miles. It is an uncomfortable place for most people to live, yet the Antarctic animals seem right at home.



1. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A to compare two texts on the same topic. Then, answer Part B to contrast the two texts.

### Part A

"Amazing Wildlife of the Mojave" and "Life in the Cold" both describe challenging places to live. How have animals adapted to both environments?

* 

A.

The animals are dying in both locations.

* 

B.

The animals avoid overheating.

* 

C.

The animals have special traits that help them survive.

* 

D.

The animals use blubber to keep warm.

### Part B

Which of the following statements **best** describes a different challenge for wildlife in the Mojave versus wildlife in Antarctica?

* 

A.

Animals in the Mojave cannot find water, but animals in Antarctica swim through water hunting for fish to eat.

* 

B.

Animals in the Mojave have to avoid overheating, but animals in Antarctica have to keep warm.

* 

C.

Animals in the Mojave hide from predators that try to catch them, but animals in Antarctica do not have any predators.

* 

D.

The Mojave is a desert, but Antarctica is not.

2. In the text, "Life in the Cold," we learn that penguins have fat under their skin called blubber. The blubber provides from the cold.

3. Which of the following sentences contains the correct spelling of the **bold** word?

* 

A.

Whales dive under the **water** to feed on shrimp, crabs, and other small sea animals.

* 

B.

Whales dive under the **wawter** to feed on shrimp, crabs, and other small sea animals.

* 

C.

Whales dive under the **wauter** to feed on shrimp, crabs, and other small sea animals.

* 

D.

Whales dive under the **woter** to feed on shrimp, crabs, and other small sea animals.

4. Identify the main verb and helping verb in the following sentence.

The penguins are standing together in a group huddle with their bodies touching.

* 

A.

The main verb is huddle, the helping verb is touching.

* 

B.

The main verb is touching, the helping verb is huddle.

* 

C.

The main verb is are, the helping verb is standing.

* 

D.

The main verb is standing, the helping verb is are.

5. How can you tell that "Life in the Cold" is an expository text? Choose the **two** correct answers.

* 

A.

It explains a topic using details and examples.

* 

B.

It has dialogue.

* 

C.

It uses illustrations instead of photographs.

* 

D.

It includes all true information.

* 

E.

It has a problem that the characters try to solve.

6. If the Greek root bio means life, what can you determine biologists most likely do in Antarctica?

* 

A.

Biologists study the fossils found in Antarctica.

* 

B.

Biologists study the harsh, or rough, land in Antarctica.

* 

C.

Biologists study the stars and planets that can be seen from Antarctica.

* 

D.

Biologists study the wildlife in Antarctica.

7. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

### Part A

Read the sentence from the article.

They **shuffle**, or drag their feet, on the ice as they move from place to place.

What does the word **shuffle** mean in the sentence?

* 

A.

to run very fast

* 

B.

to hop on one foot

* 

C.

to take large steps

* 

D.

to walk without lifting the feet

### Part B

Which word from the sentence is the best clue to the meaning of **shuffle**?

* 

A.

drag

* 

B.

ice

* 

C.

move

* 

D.

place

8. Compare and contrast penguins and seals. Sort details about the animals by dragging each phrase into the correct box.

* **have thick fur: seal**
* **have blubber: both**
* **have short legs: penguin**
* **live in Antarctica: both**
* **cannot walk well: penguin**
* **have two sets of flippers: seal**
* **penguins**
* **seals**
* **both**

9. Use the drop-down menu to select the correct vocabulary word to complete each sentence.

We were   to possible dangers as we hiked in the woods.

We knew that many bears lived in this woodland  .

We enjoyed our hike, but we were happy to return to the   of our cabins.