

Including Necessary Information

In a **summary**, a few sentences tell the main ideas of a story or article. To summarize, include all necessary information that readers need to understand what the article is about. Do not include unnecessary supporting details.

Directions Write one or two sentences summarizing the necessary information in each paragraph.

1. Millions of years ago, penguins could fly. You can see the long black “wings” on the sides of their bodies. But their wings turned to flippers. Now penguins are excellent swimmers. Their flippers are strong paddles. Penguins’ webbed feet also help them swim. **Possible answers:**

Penguins no longer fly. Now they have flippers and webbed feet that make them strong swimmers.

2. Few animals live in the center of Antarctica. But many live in the Antarctic Ocean and along the coast. Many whales go to Antarctica for the summer. The Antarctic fur seal lives on islands near Antarctica. Seals eat fish and squid from the ocean. Many birds, such as gulls and terns, also spend their summers in Antarctica. They nest on land. They get food from the ocean.

Whales, seals, and birds live in the Antarctic Ocean and along the coast of Antarctica. Many of them eat squid and other fish from the ocean.

3. Antarctica is an unusual continent. About 98% of the continent is covered with an icecap. This is a thick layer of ice and snow. Big sheets of the icecap float in the water off the coast. These are called ice shelves. In summer, parts of the ice shelves break off. They form big, flat icebergs.

Antarctica is unusual because it is almost totally covered and surrounded by ice and snow.
