

Name _____

Main Idea

- The **main idea** is the most important idea about a paragraph, passage, or story.
- **Supporting details** are pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Read each passage. Then answer the questions that follow. **Possible responses given.**

The Southern Hemisphere is the natural home to the world's penguins. Penguins live on the Galápagos Islands and in Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South America, and the islands that surround

Antarctica. They also live on Antarctica itself. All penguins share lives that are tied to the sea and the Southern Hemisphere's marine ecosystems.

1. In a few words, what is this paragraph about?

penguins and the Southern Hemisphere

2. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

The Southern Hemisphere is home to the world's penguins.

3. What is an important detail that tells more about the main idea?

Penguins live on the Galápagos Islands, in Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South America, and islands that surround Antarctica.

Emperor penguins reduce heat loss through their feet by standing on their heels. This keeps the rest of the foot from touching cold ice.

Male emperor penguins also huddle to help conserve heat. The temperature in the middle of an emperor penguin huddle can

be 95°F! Of course, some penguins must stand on the outside of the huddle. So what do they do to stay warm? They rotate. The penguins on the outside gradually push their way into the middle of the huddle. This way, each penguin gets a chance to become warmed.

4. What is the main idea of the passage?

There are many things emperor penguins do to stay warm.

5. What is one detail that tells more about the main idea?

Possible answers: They stand on heels; they huddle together.