

Multiple-Choice READING

This science text example is an example of how you can turn any text into an integrated test preparation resource. Use it as a class or in groups to discuss and clarify the strategies students use to answer a challenging test question. Then involve students in making up variations on these questions or their own challenging questions.

PENGUINS

The penguin is a bird, but it does not fly. Penguins are not like other birds. They are unique birds, and although they do have feathers, even their feathers are unusual. Other birds have rows of feathers that grow in a specific pattern. A penguin's feathers grow all over, like hair on a mammal. You will not see penguins in the air, and you will not see them in trees. You will see them in the water, in fact you will see them below the surface of the water if you have an underwater video camera.

The penguin is an ocean bird, living in and near the ocean. The penguin spends much time in the ocean, so much of its life is unknown. People only get to know penguins well when they are on land, and the penguin can be at sea for months at a time.

While the penguin is not a great flier as the eagle is, the penguin can out-swim most birds and probably out-swims some other aquatic animals. The penguin has thick strong wings and flippers instead of feet that it uses to push through the water. When the penguin is on land, it walks along slowly, and this limited mobility may be one reason the penguin spends more time in the water. The penguin's food source is in the water, the fish it catches. They have solid bones, while other birds have bones that are not solid.

Skill: Identify information (literal)

What kind of animal is a penguin?

- a. a land animal
- b. a bird
- c. a flying animal
- d. a tree animal
- e. a flying bird

Skill: Classify information

How are the penguins unique?

- a. they have horns
- b. they fly
- c. they are different from other birds
- d. they swim under water
- e. they have feathers

Skill: Comparison (analysis)

In which ways are penguins like other birds.

- a. they all fly
- b. they are all the same size
- c. they have feathers
- d. they swim
- e. they have very large feet

Skill: Give example of an idea (analysis)

Which of the following is an example of an adaptation?

- a. a penguin has wings, bones, flippers, and feathers
- b. a penguin is a special kind of bird
- c. a penguin has solid bones to help it swim underwater
- d. a penguin is a friendly animal that lives in colonies
- e. a penguin lives in the northern hemisphere

Skill: Identify cause-effect relations (analysis)

Which of the following is an adaptation that the penguin has to enable it to swim?

- a. big wings
- b. thick feathers
- c. wide flippers
- d. large eyes
- e. large size

Skill: Evaluate information (evaluation)

Which would be the kind of place a penguin would choose to live?

- a. an ocean island with trees
- b. a region with much farmland
- c. a river bank
- d. an area with many lakes
- e. none of the above

Skill: Identify the point of view of a writer (inference)

Which of the following probably is true of the writer of this paragraph.

This writer

- a. feels that eagles are the best kind of bird
- b. thinks penguins are very intelligent birds
- c. prefers other kinds of animals to penguins
- d. cares a lot about the environment
- e. knows a lot about North America