

## Main idea and supporting details

### Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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The main idea is what the text is mostly about.

The supporting details are small pieces of information that help explain the main idea.

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#### 1. Read the text once.

Penguins are special birds that can't fly. Most penguins live in Antarctica. A long time ago, penguins adapted to life in the water instead of the air. Their wings became strong, flipper-like tools that help them swim instead of soar above the land. Penguins are excellent swimmers, and their bodies are built for gliding through the water. Their smooth shape, strong muscles and flippers make them fast and graceful as they chase fish, squid and other food.

Flying takes a lot of energy, and penguins don't need to fly to survive. They get most of their food from the ocean, so being great swimmers is more important. Instead of the hollow bones that flying birds have, penguins have heavier bones. These help them dive deep underwater without floating back up too quickly.

On land, penguins waddle because their short legs are not built for running or jumping. Even though they can't fly, penguins have other ways to move. Some slide on their bellies across the snow, which is a fun and fast way to travel on the ice.

Penguins can't fly, but they don't need to. Their amazing swimming skills and unique bodies help them survive in their cold, icy homes. Penguins remind us that animals are built to fit their environment perfectly!