Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Topic: a word or two. Main idea: a sentence. Details: facts that support it.

A. Read the passage.

Built for the Cold

Emperor penguins live in Antarctica, one of the coldest places on Earth. Their bodies are made to handle the cold.

They have thick, oily feathers that keep wind and water out. Under their skin is a layer of fat that holds in heat. In the worst storms, thousands of penguins huddle together and take turns standing in the warm middle.

B. Fill in the organizer.

1. Topic: _____
2. Main idea: _____
3. Detail 1: _____
4. Detail 2: _____
5. Detail 3: _____

C. Circle the main idea.

1. Carrots, apples and beans give us vitamins. Milk makes bones strong. (Healthy food helps our bodies. / Apples are red.)
2. Owls hunt at night. Their big eyes see in the dark. They fly without a sound. (Owls are good night hunters. / Owls have feathers.)
3. Rain fills rivers. Plants drink it. Animals need it to live. (Rain is wet. / Rain is important for life.)

D. Cross out the detail that doesn't belong. Main idea: Exercise keeps you healthy.

1. It makes your heart strong.
2. It helps you sleep better.
3. My favorite color is blue.
4. It builds strong muscles.

Answer Key

B. Fill in the organizer.

1. **emperor penguins** 2. **Emperor penguins' bodies are made to handle the cold.** 3. **thick, oily feathers** 4. **a layer of fat** 5. **they huddle together**

C. Circle the main idea.

1. **Healthy food helps our bodies.** 2. **Owls are good night hunters.** 3. **Rain is important for life.**

D. Cross out the detail that doesn't belong.

Cross out 3: **My favorite color is blue.**