

Test Booklet

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ISAT 2011-2013 Grade 3 Reading

Student name: _____

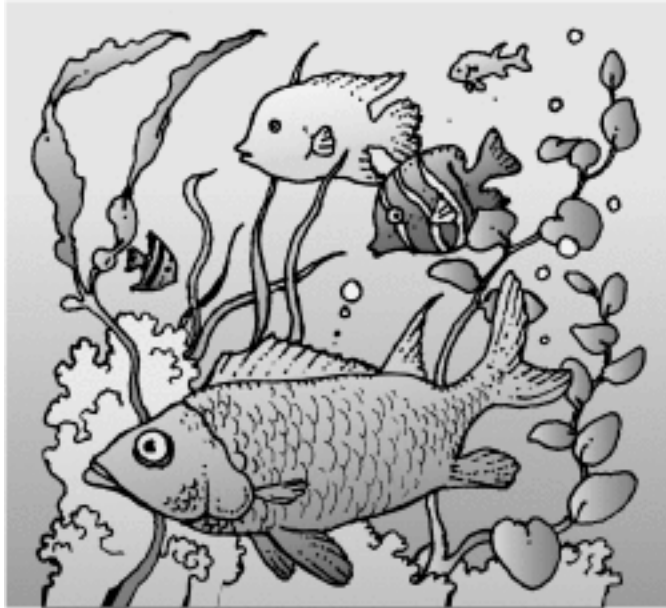
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Being a Fish

by Russell E. Erickson



Would it be fun to be a fish? They are, after all, quite different from us.

Fish have no ears as we do. Their bodies are covered with thin, flat plates called scales. The only sounds they know are what they feel using certain scales along their sides. These are special scales called lateral lines.

We get oxygen from the air by using our lungs. Fish get oxygen from the water by using the gills on the sides of their heads. We can play in water and on land, but fish must stay in the water all the time.

Fish never get hot or cold. They are called cold-blooded because they are always the same temperature as the water around them. That means they have no need for hot soup, or cold lemonade, or cozy blankets, or cool sandals.

All in all, it's probably more fun being us.

1 This story mainly tells —

- A** how fish are different from people
- B** how many kinds of fish there are
- C** where fish can be found
- D** how fish swim

2 Which question does the article answer?

- A** Do fish have teeth?
- B** How can I catch a fish?
- C** Do fish sleep?
- D** What does cold-blooded mean?

3 You would most likely find an article like this in a book about —

- A** farm animals
- B** water fun
- C** sea life
- D** fishing

4 How do fish hear?

- A** With ears
- B** By feeling
- C** By tasting
- D** By smelling

This passage is all about penguins. It tells about how penguins survive in the wild.

Waddle, Dive, and Swim

by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

1 A flock of penguins waddles across the ice and snow. They walk upright, heads held high. As they step, step, step with their wide, three-toed feet and short, stubby legs, they rock from side to side like chubby wind-up toys.

2 Penguins can't fly. But they are birds. Like all birds, penguins have feathers and wings. A penguin's wings are small and flat. While climbing up slippery slopes, or hopping from rock to rock, penguins hold their wings out to the side for balance. To go downhill, they flop on their bellies and slide, using their wings to steer.

3 Penguins live mostly in the ocean. But for a few weeks or months each year, they come ashore to nest and hatch their eggs. Once their chicks are grown, penguins hurry back to the sea. They gather at the edge of the ice and peer into the cold water. Their thick coat of waterproof feathers can protect them from the cold, but not from enemies! They watch for lurking sharks, leopard seals, or killer whales.



4 When all's clear, they plunge into the water, one after the other, like Olympic divers. Although penguins may look silly while waddling and tobogganing¹ across the land, they are graceful in water. Lots of swimming birds, such as ducks and geese, use their big feet to paddle along. But with their strong, flipperlike wings penguins can "fly" through the sea.

5 When penguins are hungry, they dive down deep to hunt for food. Most birds have light, hollow bones to help them rise up in the air. Penguins have heavy bones and sleek, streamlined bodies. That helps them dive deeper and swim faster than any other type of bird.

6 Penguins can spend months at sea without ever touching land. But like all birds they must breathe air. Penguins breathe by leaping out of the water like porpoises while swimming fast. They glide over the water for a second or two, gulp a breath of air, then dive back in. “Porpoising²” is also a good way to confuse enemies. A stalking shark or seal loses sight of a penguin when it’s out of the water.



7 If porpoising doesn’t work, a penguin can escape an enemy by quickly changing direction. It uses its webbed feet and pointy tail like a ship’s rudder to zigzag this way and that. If an iceberg is floating nearby, the penguin can rocket straight out of the water and land on the ice, out of the enemy’s reach.

8 Penguins know all the moves they need to stay safe and have fun — both on land and in the sea.

¹ **tobogganing** — to ride as if on a small sled

² **porpoising** — to leap out of the water like a porpoise or dolphin

5 What does waddles mean in this sentence from the passage?

A flock of penguins waddles across the ice and snow.

- A Flies
- B Skips
- C Walks
- D Jumps

6 According to the passage, what do the penguins do after their chicks are grown?

- A Follow the seals
- B Slide down hills
- C Go back out to sea
- D Build another nest

7 What is the base word for graceful?

- A ful
- B ace
- C race
- D grace

8 What does the author mean in the sentence below?

Penguins can “fly” through the sea.

- A They slip and slide.
- B They are quick and graceful.
- C They dive deeper than many whales.
- D They use their pointy tails to swim straight.

9 Why are penguins good swimmers?

- A They have short, stubby legs.
- B They can breathe underwater.
- C They can peer into the cold water.
- D They have sleek, streamlined bodies.

10 This diagram shows how penguins avoid their enemies.



What belongs in the empty box?

- A Slide across the land
- B Dive deep to get food
- C Breathe in water slowly
- D Change direction quickly

11 What best describes the meaning of nearby?

- A Soon
- B Over
- C Close
- D Across

12 Which of these is an opinion?

- A Penguins have feathers and wings.
- B Penguins live mostly in the ocean.
- C Penguins may look silly while waddling and tobogganing across the land.
- D Penguins breathe by leaping out of the water like porpoises while swimming fast.

13 What would be another good title for “Waddle, Dive, and Swim”?

- A “Penguin Feathers Are Thick”
- B “Friends of the Happy Porpoise”
- C “Using Sense of Direction Wisely”
- D “The Amazing World of Penguins”

14 What is the genre of “Waddle, Dive, and Swim”?

- A Fable
- B Short story
- C Fairy tale
- D Nonfiction

15 Penguins can survive both on land and in water. Explain how penguins are different from most birds. Use information from the passage and your own ideas to support your answer.

This passage is about a boy who helps his soccer team.

The Bright Side



1 David watched as Jason dove onto the grass in front of the soccer goal and captured the ball. Players from the other team charged toward Jason. Just in time, Jason kicked the ball, sending it high into the air. It soared through the sky like an eagle in flight.

2 “Wow, Jason! That kick was awesome!” shouted David. But then the referee blew her whistle, signaling the end of the game. Another loss for their team.

3 “I’m sick of losing!” Jason moaned.

4 “Me too,” added Raul.

5 “I don’t know why we even keep trying,” said another member of the team.

6 David and his teammates slowly trudged over to the team huddle. “You played a great game today,” Coach Mullins reassured the team. “You all tried your best. Keep focused on your successes, like Jason’s amazing kick. I’ll see you tomorrow at practice.”

7 Walking home, David dribbled his soccer ball. Jason stared at the ground. “How can you feel like practicing soccer?” Jason asked glumly. “We’ve lost five straight games! We are never going to win.”

8 David knew that Jason was not the only team member feeling down. He could tell that winning seemed impossible. Everyone felt it was hopeless.

9 That evening, David asked his older sister, Caroline, for advice. “How can I help my team?” David asked. “Everyone seems to think that they are never going to win a game.”

10 “Well,” Caroline offered, “I’ve seen you guys play; you’re pretty good. Your team just needs to *believe* you can get better.”

11 The next day at practice, David thought about what Caroline had said. After warm-ups, Coach Mullins let David talk to the team. “It’s been really hard losing so much,” said David, “but we’re getting better. The scoreboard just hasn’t shown it yet.”

12 “How can you say that we’re getting better?” asked Raul. “We’re still losing.”



13 “You’re right, but let me show you something that might surprise you,” David said. He took out a small notebook. “In our first game of the season, we tried five times to score a goal. We didn’t even score one. Five games later, in yesterday’s game, we took fourteen shots, and two of them went in the goal.”

14 “I don’t know if I’d call that an improvement,” Jason frowned.

15 “Jason,” David said, “you should be proud. Do you know why?”

16 “No,” Jason replied, curious.

17 “The first game you stopped the other team from scoring seven times and you only kicked the ball partway up the field,” David explained. “Yesterday, you made twenty saves. Even better, your kicks sailed all the way past the middle of the field. You’re becoming a great goalie!”

18 The team cheered and whistled for Jason. “We have been passing a lot more,” he admitted.

19 “I know my left-footed kicks are getting stronger,” Raul piped in.

20 “My brother showed me a couple of tricks that worked in the last game,” Craig added excitedly.

21 “This is what I like to hear!” said Coach Mullins. “I feel the energy rising. Let’s get out there and score some goals!”

22 The boys raced out onto the soccer field. They hollered encouragement to one another.

23 After practice, Coach Mullins grinned widely at his team. “I feel sorry for the next team that plays us, because we’re ready for a change. Let’s all thank David for opening our eyes!”

24 “Keep track of how we do during our next game,” yelled Raul to David as they walked off the field. “I can’t wait to see how much we improve.”

25 David smiled proudly. His idea had worked. By looking at the bright side of things, he knew his team would have plenty to be proud of at their next game.

- 16 Which would be the **best** synonym for charged in the sentence below.

Player from the other team charged toward Jason.

- A Raced
B Kicked
C Trudged
D Dribbled
- 17 Read these sentences from the passage.
- Just in time, Jason kicked the ball, sending it high into the air. It soared through the sky like an eagle in flight.
- Why does the author compare the ball to “an eagle in flight”?
- A To show that the kick surprises the players
B To show that the players are excited about the game
C To show that the ball bounces across the field
D To show that the ball travels a great distance
- 18 What does glumly mean in paragraph 7?
- A In a hopeful way
B In a proud way
C In a bored way
D In a sad way

- 19 What does Caroline tell David?

- A He should take notes on his team.
B His team members should practice more often.
C His team members should believe in themselves.
D He should capture the ball.

- 20 What is the purpose of David’s speech to his team?

- A To tell what the team should practice
B To show that the team is improving
C To explain why the team lost the game
D To describe how the team can score goals

- 21 Why does Raul disagree with David?

- A Their team keeps losing.
B Jason makes many saves.
C Jason misses getting a goal.
D Their team needs better players.

- 22 What is the **most** important thing Jason learns about himself?

- A He plays better after warming up.
B He is improving as a goalie.
C His soccer tricks are working.
D His kicks with his left foot are going farther.

23 Read the following sentences from the passage.

“Jason,” David said, “you should be proud. Do you know why?”

“No,” Jason replied, curious.

How does the picture after paragraph 12 support these sentences?

- A** The picture shows the team listening and wondering.
- B** The picture shows the team down and discouraged.
- C** The picture shows the team nervous and afraid.
- D** The picture shows the team happy and excited.

24 Which statement from the passage **best** represents the team’s mood in paragraph 22?

- A** “I’ll see you tomorrow at practice.”
- B** “I feel the energy rising.”
- C** “It’s been really hard losing so much.”
- D** “I don’t know if I’d call that an improvement.”

25 Why does David smile in paragraph 25?

- A** Because his coach adds more advice
- B** Because the team cheers for him
- C** Because his idea is successful
- D** Because his team wins a game

