



Snowflakes

Snowflakes are tiny bits of ice crystals that are stuck together.

When the air temperature is freezing, clouds start to fill with ice crystals. Then the ice crystals get stuck together and become flakes. When a cloud becomes full of snowflakes, they begin to fall to the ground.

Snowflakes are made up of 200 different ice crystals. While every snowflake is different from the next, each snowflake has 6 sides.

Did you know that the world's most substantial snowflake was 15 inches across?

Polar Bears

Polar bears are large mammals that live in the Arctic along the shores.

Polar bears mostly eat seals. They will wait silently at a seal's breathing hole for the seal to take a breath. Then, they will attack the seal with their massive claws and jagged teeth.

Bear babies are called cubs. Most male polar bears give birth to 2 cubs a time and they are born in a den.

Polar Animals

Polar animals live near the North Pole or South Pole. Polar animals are animals with ice and snow all around them in very cold and windy places.

Polar animals have a layer of fat called blubber to help keep them warm. This extra layer of fat protects them in the icy waters.

Many polar animals have white fur which helps them hide from predators in the snow.

Did you know that penguins have really large webbed feet with claws that help them from slipping on the ice?

Emperor Penguins

Emperor penguins live in Antarctica and eat fish, squid, and krill. The adult penguins feed their chicks by throwing up their food into their chicks' mouths.

Female emperor penguins lay one egg at a time and then leave the male in charge of the egg while they go away to hunt for food. The male takes care of the egg and it hatches in about 2 months.

Did you know that emperor penguins can stay underwater for 20 minutes at a time?

Adelie Penguins

Adelie penguins live in Antarctica and eat fish, squid, and krill. The adult penguins feed their chicks by throwing up their food into their chicks' mouths.

Female adelie penguins lay one egg at a time and then leave the male in charge of the egg while they go away to hunt for food. The male takes care of the egg and it hatches in about 2 months.

Did you know that adelie penguins can stay underwater for 20 minutes at a time?

5 Nonfiction & 5 Fiction close read passages with vocabulary and comprehension questions.

Vocabulary

Name _____

After reading your winter story once, go back and re-read it. Highlight or circle any words that are tricky. Record them below.

word	definition
word	definition
word	definition

Provide the evidence to support your answers below.

Main Idea & Details

Name _____

After reading your winter story once, go back and re-read it. What is the main idea of the story? What are the supporting details?

Main Idea: _____

Details: _____

close reading in my 1st grade classroom

When I teach my first grade students about close reading, there are a few aspects I highlight:

Re-reading a text: Students will learn to become "best friends" with the text. Instead of simply enjoying a story the first time through, students will learn to dig deeper and read it again for a deeper understanding, a new meaning, or simply to uncover new terms or phrases. A quality text can be used many times!

How I incorporate close reading in my 1st grade classroom

Vocabulary development: Students will focus on vocabulary words that are essential to the story. They will learn new words and use the context clues to try and infer their meaning.

Reading with a highlighter in hand: In a story I teach my students to highlight important information, go back in the text and underline their evidence that supports their answers to comprehension questions. I also encourage my higher students to take notes in the margins or in their reader's notebook about the text.

Snowball Fight

The first snow of winter was here. Jim and Pam got all bundled up and went outside to play in the snow. Jim had never seen snow before. His cheeks began to get red and he could hardly breathe as he spoke. "This is so fun!" Jim said to Pam. Pam picked up some snow and rolled it into a snowball. She hurled it at Jim's face. His eyes started to tear. "Sorry!" Pam said. "I didn't mean to hurt you." Jim smiled, "It's okay. I made my own snowball and I'm ready for a snow fight!"

Penguin Party, this way!

Pete the penguin was new in town. He was feeling lonely and didn't have any friends yet. One day while he was wandering around the icebergs, he saw a sign. Two penguins were waving to him and telling him to come over. They were smiling and chuckling. Pete walked over and said, "Hello!" The two giggling penguins invited Pete to the party on the other side of the iceberg. Pete was a little nervous but he decided to go to the party. When he got there, he met Patty, Pip, and Puff. They had a big smile on their faces and they were holding a sign that said "THIS WAY!"

Polar Bear Prince

Sam the polar bear was a rich, greedy prince. He would go around and take food from all the little cubs. He would chase around the cubs and scare them away. Once they were gone, Sam would rummage through their stuff and steal their belongings. One day, Sam saw a chick who needed help finding his parents. Sam knew that he could frighten him and steal his stuff, but he looked again at the chick and saw that he was teary-eyed and shivering. The polar bear prince decided to stay with the chick and search for his parents. An hour later, the chick's parents had found the chick's parents and the polar bear prince.

Let's build a snowman

My sister and I woke up one morning and decided to go outside our window. "NO SCHOOL!" my mom had hot cocoa ready for us at the kitchen table. We knew exactly what we wanted to do after breakfast. My sister and I went to the closet and grabbed a hat, scarf, and mittens. We put on our snow gear and headed out for our adventure. We each got down in the snow and started to make three large snowballs. We stacked them together with the largest on the bottom and the smallest on the top and got to work. Once we were completed, my sister and I smiled at each other and went back inside for some more hot cocoa!

Let's build a snowman

I gave Snowy a yellow scarf and a blue hat. We were best friends. I told him all my secrets because I could trust him to not tell anyone else. We played games like hide-and-seek and rock, paper, scissors. I always won. One sunny day, I came outside and saw Snowy's scarf and hat on the ground. I was shocked! Snowy must be playing hide-and-seek, I thought. I searched and searched, but I could not find him anywhere. I started to get sweaty from the heat, so I went inside to grab a cool treat. Tomorrow, I will go back out and find him!

_____ sentences with the same meaning as the sentence on the left.

_____ side and the snowflake fell to the ground.

_____ when she saw that the chick was safe.

_____ using one of the above vocabulary words:

What close reading is and how I use it in my 1st grade classroom.