Notes That Fit

Sort research notes by the question they answer.

4.W.8 "Gather and recall relevant information from experiences and print and digital sources such as library databases. Take notes and categorize information. Provide a list of sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HELPS ANSWER THE QUESTION	DOES NOT HELP ANSWER THE QUESTION
A related note gives a fact you can use to answer your research question. It does not have to give the whole answer. Question: How do beavers build dams? Note: Beavers carry branches to a stream.	An unrelated note does not help answer your research question, even if the fact is interesting. Question: How do beavers build dams? Note: The Moon orbits Earth.

1 SORT

8 items

For the question "How do emperor penguins stay warm?", circle RELATED or UNRELATED for each note; in Part 2, choose two notes and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Emperor penguins huddle in large groups to keep warm.	RELATED UNRELATED
2.	Their feathers trap a layer of warm air.	RELATED UNRELATED
3.	Emperor penguins can dive deep underwater.	RELATED UNRELATED
4.	A thick layer of fat under their skin slows heat loss.	RELATED UNRELATED
5.	Emperor penguins eat fish and squid.	RELATED UNRELATED
6.	An emperor penguin chick grows inside an egg.	RELATED UNRELATED
7.	In a huddle, penguins take turns moving toward the warmer center.	RELATED UNRELATED
8.	They tuck their flippers close to their bodies to lose less heat.	RELATED UNRELATED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new note that is RELATED and one new note that is UNRELATED to the research question. Do not copy a note above.

RELATED _____

UNRELATED _____

CHALLENGE

Sort the RELATED notes into two smaller groups: body features and actions. List the note numbers in each group.

ANSWER KEY

Notes That Fit

GRADE 4 · 4.W.8

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Emperor penguins huddle in large groups to keep warm.	**RELATED**	Huddling is an action that helps them stay warm.
2	Their feathers trap a layer of warm air.	**RELATED**	The note explains how feathers help them stay warm.
3	Emperor penguins can dive deep underwater.	**UNRELATED**	Diving depth does not explain how they stay warm.
4	A thick layer of fat under their skin slows heat loss.	**RELATED**	The note explains how body fat helps them stay warm.
5	Emperor penguins eat fish and squid.	**UNRELATED**	The note describes their food, not how they stay warm.
6	An emperor penguin chick grows inside an egg.	**UNRELATED**	The note describes development, not how penguins stay warm.
7	In a huddle, penguins take turns moving toward the warmer center.	**RELATED**	Moving toward the center helps them stay warm.
8	They tuck their flippers close to their bodies to lose less heat.	**RELATED**	The note describes an action that reduces heat loss.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **RELATED**: Emperor penguins' feathers help keep icy water away from their skin.
- **UNRELATED**: Emperor penguins use calls to find their mates.

Challenge: Body features: 2, 4. Actions: 1, 7, 8.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect a RELATED note to staying warm or show why an UNRELATED note does not answer how. For example, item 2 explains how feathers help, while item 5 tells what penguins eat.