

Sample Answers

Assignment: Winter Survival

Collection: Reading & Writing in Response to Text Sets

Use the following answers as a reference while grading student responses to the short-answer reading questions. Keep in mind that answers may vary and this is just one way to correctly complete the assignment.

Reading Questions

Part A

5. What are **two** examples given by Gina Rich to support the idea that birds use many different strategies to survive the winter? List two examples below in your own words.

Sample Answer: Some birds grow extra feathers, like a winter jacket. Other birds puff out their feathers to trap air in them to stay warm.

Part B

6. Find **two** sentences from the article to support your answer to Part A. Copy and paste the quotations below.

Sample Answer: “In fall, birds grow extra feathers - their version of a winter jacket - to prepare for the colder months.”

“By trapping air in its feathers, the bird creates a toasty layer of warmth around itself.”

(Answers will vary depending on the answer to Part A.)

Part A

7. Write a short summary of “Don’t Bug Out: Insects Have Ways to Survive Cold,” the article by Jason Bittel.

Sample Answer: Insects have a variety of ways to survive the cold temperatures of winter. Some are seasonal, meaning they die off when winter comes after burying or protecting their eggs. Others huddle together in clusters and vibrate their wings for warmth. Giant wetas can freeze and then come back to life when they thaw out. Other insects migrate to warmer temperatures or can survive by staying active in winter.

Part B

8. Cite **two** quotations from the article by Jason Bittel to support your answer to Part A. Copy and paste the quotations below.

Sample Answer: “As it turns out, there are many answers to this question because there are many kinds of bugs.”

“‘One of the most common ways that bugs deal with winter, especially in North America, is that they are seasonal,’ says Kristie Reddick, a scientist and half of the insect-loving duo known as the Bug Chicks.”

Part A

11. What is one similarity in the ways bugs and birds survive cold weather described in the article by Gina Rich and in the article by Jason Bittel? Write a short answer in your own words below.

Sample Answer: Some bugs and some birds huddle together for warmth in the winter.

Part B

12. Provide **two** details from the articles that support the answer to Part A. Provide **one** detail from the article by Gina Rich and **one** detail from the article by Jason Bittel. Copy and paste the quotations below.

Sample Answer: "Some species, such as chickadees and bluebirds, often huddle together to share heat."

"Honeybees huddle together in clusters inside their hive."