



# The Coldest Continent

Antarctica is not like any other continent. It is as far south as you can go on Earth. The South Pole is found there. Ice covers the whole land. In some places the ice is almost three miles thick! Beneath the ice are mountains and valleys.

The weather in Antarctica is harsh. It is the coldest place on Earth. The temperature does not get above freezing. It is also one of the windiest places in the world.

Not many living things are found in Antarctica. People go there to study for only a short time. Very few animals can live there. Yet many animals live on nearby islands. Seals and penguins swim in the ocean waters. They build nests on the land. Some birds spend their summers in Antarctica. But most of the continent is just ice, snow, and cold air.

**Skill** Read the title and the first sentence. What do you think is the main idea?

**Strategy** Why can very few animals live in Antarctica? If you don't understand, how can you clarify or adjust your comprehension?

# Snuggles and Tippy

Rita had a small black cat named Snuggles. The cat had bright green eyes. Her neighbor Joe had a big black dog he called Tippy. Tippy had a white spot on the tip of his tail.

Joe was busy playing catch with his dog when Rita walked out into the backyard. “Where is your cat?” asked Joe. “Does she play outside? Tippy loves to be with people.”

“Cats are much more particular,” replied Rita. “They will not play with just anyone.”

Just then Snuggles walked out of the house. Tippy barked and Snuggles ran. She was so frightened that she climbed right up into the branches of the nearest tree.

“Well,” said Joe, “that is another difference between cats and dogs. My dog would never run up a tree.”

Snuggles hissed at Tippy from the safety of her branch. Rita was upset. “Well, my cat would never scare your dog!”

“I am not sure about that,” laughed Joe, as he rescued the angry cat.



**Strategy** Here’s a good place to stop and visualize the pets in the story. What details help you picture them?

**Skill** Compare and contrast how Joe and Rita feel about their pets. What details tell you this?

# Collecting

Collecting stamps is a fun and interesting hobby. Sometimes children and young people are interested in collecting stamps. But they might not have a lot of money to buy stamps. How can you get stamps without spending money? •

There are a few ways you can solve that problem. One way is to ask people to give you stamps that they don't need. Start by telling your friends and your family that you are collecting stamps. Suppose your uncle gets a letter from France. He can save the stamp and give it to you!

Another way to get stamps is to trade them with other people. Once you start collecting, you might get more than one copy of the same stamp. Then you can use the copies to trade with other people for stamps that you don't have. •

Asking people to save stamps for you and trading stamps are two good ways to get stamps. Before you know it, you'll have more stamps than you can count!

**Strategy** This is a good place to stop reading and ask a question, such as *What is the topic of this selection?*

**Skill** What conclusion can you draw about why you might get more than one copy of a stamp?

# Salsa Garden

David saw the sign his father put on the garden fence. It said Salsa Garden.

“Salsa?” David read aloud. “Can you grow salsa?”

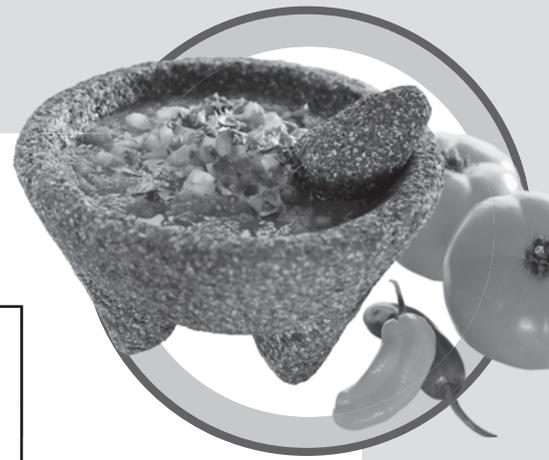
Dad replied, “Just watch and see what comes up.”

Each time David helped by watering and pulling weeds, he looked at the green plants. They all looked different. Not one looked like salsa.

Finally, harvest time came. First, Dad dug in the ground and pulled out round white things that looked a lot like onions. Then, he pulled off pods hanging from a plant. They looked a lot like hot peppers. Next, he cut a green leafy plant that smelled spicy. Finally, Dad pulled round red balls from a fat vine. They sure looked a lot like tomatoes.

“Where’s the salsa, Dad?” David asked as he followed his father to the kitchen.

Dad washed and cut everything up. He dumped his harvest into a machine with a sharp blade and turned it on. When he opened the lid, it was full of salsa!



**Strategy** Make a prediction and set a purpose before you read, using the title and photos. What do you think the story will be about? Confirm your prediction as you read.

**Strategy** Set a purpose before you read. What outcome do you want from reading this selection?

**Skill** What is the author’s purpose? How do you know?

# Do All Birds Fly?

## Birds are Alike

There are many different kinds of birds in the world. But all birds are alike in some ways. All birds lay eggs. All birds have feathers. And all birds have wings.

## Penguins and Ostriches

Just because all birds have wings does not mean that all birds can fly. Penguins are birds but they do not fly. They use their wings to swim. Penguins are not the only birds that do not fly. Some large birds, like the ostrich, do not fly. They move about only by walking.

## The Frigate

Some birds fly but hardly ever walk. The frigate is a bird that does not walk very well. It also does not swim. It gets from place to place only by flying.

## Ducks

Most birds, however, combine flying with some kind of walking or swimming. Ducks can do three things. They can fly, walk, and swim. Perhaps that is why we sometimes say, “What a lucky duck!”

**Strategy** How do the headings better help you understand how the text is structured?

**Skill** What facts and details does this paragraph include about the frigate?