

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Taking the Chill Out

Mia likes animals. She likes all kinds of animals, even the ones other people think are ugly. Every summer, Mia and her dad have a lot of fun together at the zoo.

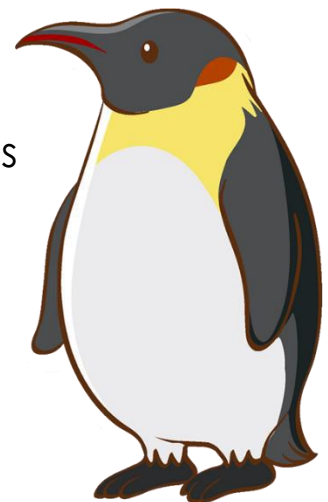
One frosty morning, after the first snow fall, Mia got a surprise. Mia's dad asked her if she wanted to go to the zoo.

"But it's cold outside Dad," Mia said. "Won't the animals be inside?"

"It's not that cold," her dad replied. "Lots of animals will be outside."

"But there's snow on the ground, Dad," Mia said.

"Some animals are used to the snow," her dad replied. "What about polar bears and penguins?"



“Will the zoo be open?” Mia asked.

“Sure, it will,” her dad replied.

“Alright Dad. Let’s go!”

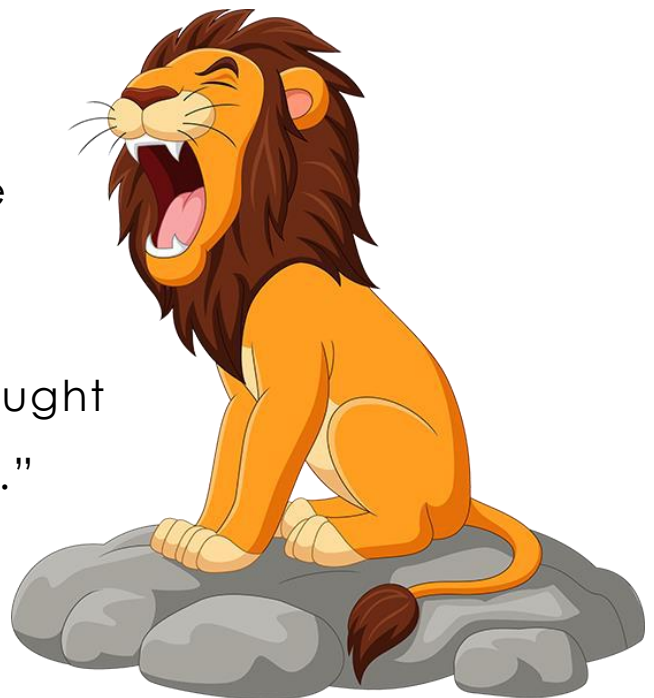
At the zoo, Mia wrapped her coat tight around herself. She watched a lion stretched out on a big rock. “Why isn’t he cold, Dad?” Mia asked.

“His keepers use a heating pad to help him stay warm,” her dad said.

“Heating pad? That’s silly!” Mia said and laughed. “I don’t see any heating pad.”

“The heating pad is hidden inside the fake rocks that the lion is lying on.”

“Hmm...” Mia said as she thought about it. “That’s pretty smart.”



Mia pushed her hands deeper into her coat pockets. She watched the otters play in their pool. “How come they’re not cold Dad?” Mia asked.

Their keepers heat the water to help them stay warm,” her dad said.



“Like a hot water bottle?” Mia said and laughed.

“Not quite,” her dad replied. “Zoos warm up the water in the pools for all the animals who like to swim. Think of how good a warm bath feels when you come in from playing in the cold.”

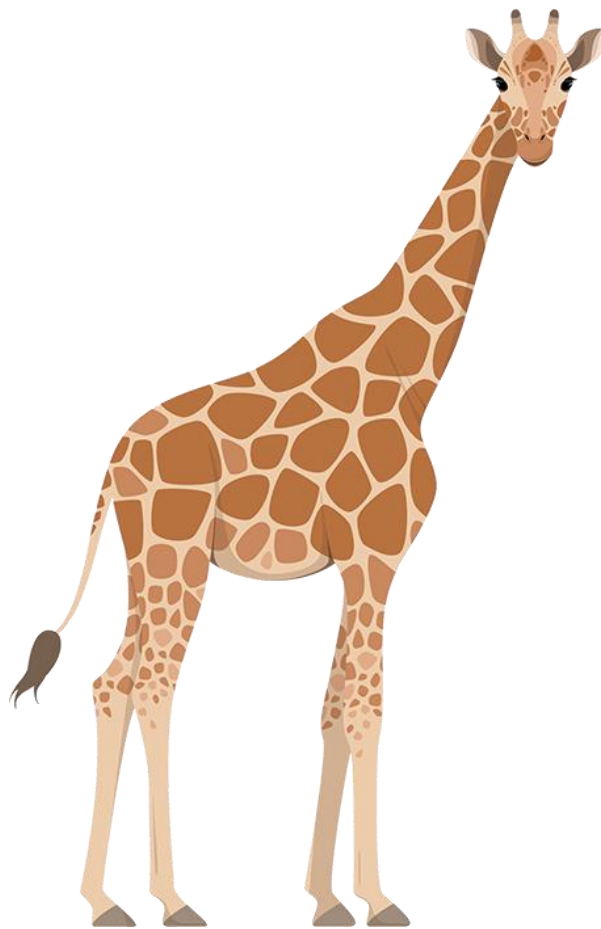
“Hmm...,” Mia said as she thought about it. “That’s pretty smart.”

Mia slid on a patch of ice as she stopped at the giraffe enclosure. She looked but couldn’t see any of the big animals. “How come the giraffes got cold and went inside Dad? Are heating pads and hot water bottles not enough to keep them warm?”

“Well, let’s think about this for a minute. What might happen to a giraffe’s long legs and neck if they slipped on some ice like you almost did?”

“Oh, I get it Dad,” Mia said and laughed. “The giraffes need winter boots.”

“That’s pretty smart.” Dad said.



Exercises:

1. Fill in the blanks.

a. Animals like _____ and
_____ are used to the snow.

b. Some zoos hide _____ inside fake
_____ for the lions to lie on.

c. Some zoos warm up the _____ in the
_____ for animals who like to swim.

2. What would happen if the zoo didn't warm the water in the otter's outdoor pool during the winter? Answer in a complete sentence.

3. What might happen to a giraffe if it walked on ice? Answer in a complete sentence.

4. Pick a zoo animal and describe how you would keep them warm in the winter?

Answers:

1. Fill in the blanks.
 - a. Animals like polar bears and penguins are used to the snow.
 - b. Some zoos hide heating pads inside fake rocks for the lions to lie on.
 - c. Some zoos warm up the water in the pools for animals who like to swim.
2. What would happen if the zoo didn't warm the water in the otter's outdoor pool during the winter? Answer in a complete sentence.
The water in the pool would freeze.
3. What might happen to a giraffe if it walked on ice? Answer in a complete sentence.
The giraffe might slip and fall down.
4. Answers will vary.