

Safety In Numbers
by Sarah Wassner Flynn



What do you notice in this photograph of Emperor penguins?

Brrr! It is winter. You are at the South Pole. This is the coldest place on Earth. It is even colder than your freezer! How do animals stay alive there? They stay together.

Staying Toasty

Think about being outside on a cold day. You can warm up with a coat. Or you can huddle up with your friends. Together, you share body heat. Animals in the wild do this too. Penguins can't wear coats. But they can share body heat.



Impalas may form herds of 50 or more.

Penguins **survive** by staying close. They form large groups. This keeps them warm. It also keeps them out of the wind. This is how they've **adapted** to living in the cold.

Follow the Herd

Far away in Africa is a **herd** of impalas. It is hot in Africa. Impalas do not need to keep warm. Instead, a herd keeps them safe.

Did You Know?



Emperor penguins take turns being on the outside and inside of the group.

Those on the outside get cold and move to the inside to get warm.

Those on the inside get hot and move to the outside to cool off!

Why? Lions eat impalas. One impala is easy to catch. A group of impalas is harder to hunt. The impalas spread out. This confuses the lion. Also, older impalas can protect their young. Forming a group helps the impalas. Maybe they won't be the hungry lion's next meal.



Thousands of Monarch butterflies roost together.

Traveling Together

Monarch butterflies can't live in the cold. They fly south every year. It is a long trip. Sometimes the butterflies need a break. They rest in a giant group. This is

called **roosting**. Like the penguins, it keeps them warm. Like the impalas, it also keeps them safe from **predators**.



Get In the Group

Why do you join a group? Maybe it is so you don't get lost. Or maybe it is to have fun together. For some animals, staying in a group is not a choice. It is the only way they can stay alive in the wild.