

Name _____

Family Times

Summary

The Mystery of Saint Matthew Island

The reindeer herd on Saint Matthew Island had grown to six thousand animals. Suddenly, almost all of the reindeer died. A scientist tries to figure out why. His research rules out the usual causes: predators, disease, and old age. He discovers that the reindeer had starved, and a brutal winter sealed their fate.

Activity

Survival Strategies Imagine you and members of your family are scientists studying animals in the wild. Talk with your family about how animals survive. Discuss the different things that can threaten a wild animal's survival, both natural and man-made.



Comprehension Skill

Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** is an important point that has at least one supporting detail. **Details** are smaller pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Activity

Zero In Ask members of your family for their opinions about certain animals. For each opinion, or main idea, discuss ideas for supporting details. Make a list of the main ideas and the details that support them.