

**Grade: 8 UNIT 4: EMPERORS ON ICE SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. What did the scientists want to establish after studying the eggs?

 At that time it was thought that the emperor penguin was one of the planet’s most primitive birds and that analysis of its embryos would reveal links between all birds and their reptile predecessors. So obtaining the embryo of the emperor penguin was thought to be of extreme importance.

2. What additional benefits did they expect to achieve through this journey?

 The expedition would benefit them in other ways too. Firstly, it gave them the opportunity to try out different sledding rations under extreme field conditions, with varying quantities of fats, etc., and secondly, Scott had requested that his meteorologists deliver predictions for the most likely weather conditions to be encountered on the Great Ice Barrier during his attempt on the Pole. For this, they needed weather data from the Great Ice Barrier in winter. So the success of other polar expeditions depended on them.

3. What motivated Wilson to undertake this difficult journey?

 Wilson was the trip’s zoologist who had dedicated his life to the study of penguins. For Wilson, the chance to continue studying the breeding biology of the birds was an irresistible temptation and he risked this difficult journey.

4. What was the curator’s first reaction when he saw the eggs?

 The curator of the American Museum of Natural History did not recognize the importance of the eggs. He dismissively asked Cherry-Garrard to take the eggs to an egg shop.