



DOWN: SOMETHING TO QUACK ABOUT!

Ducks and geese provide us with the luxury, comfort and warmth to stuff in our pillows, comforters, ski clothes, sleeping bags, and sportswear. The name for this ducky stuff is “down.”

DID YOU KNOW?

- Down is the light, fluffy under-coating beneath the feathers of a goose or duck.
- Down keeps us toasty warm. It's a good insulator. Here's how it works: Down is made of millions of fluffy strands that lock together and overlap. A layer of still air gets trapped in all the fluff. This layer of air holds warmth in and keeps cold out. That's what good insulators do!
- The Federal Trade Commission has rules for labeling down products so consumers know what they are getting. Not all feathers will do! For example, products that contain chicken or turkey feathers may not be labeled as down. Only products that come from ducks or geese may be labeled “down” or “waterfowl feathers.”

TRY THIS: Look for a label on something in your home that contains down or feathers. What does the label say? Share results in class.

GREAT STUFF!

Four items that may contain down are hidden in these sentences. You'll find them if you write down all the bold letters in the order they appear. List the four items below:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Meat is the main product **of** duck farms. Down and **feathers** — called plumage — are the most **important** by-products. Down is **washed** along with feathers to get rid of **various insects**, dust, and dirt. The **plumage is all** dried in huge dryers. Then the lighter-weight **down** is separated from the feathers by **powerful** air currents. Down and **feathers will be** mixed again in different **percentages** depending on how they will **be** used and sold. Down is **great** stuff!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

American Down Association
3216 Eastwood Road
Sacramento, CA 95821
T: (916) 971-1135
Fax: (916) 971-3151