

Name

Date

May, Might, Can, and Could

Antarctic Journal
Grammar: Modal Auxiliaries

Modal Auxiliary	What It Expresses	Examples
may	permission to do an action; possibility that an action will happen	My parents said my sister may go on the field trip. She may see penguins in the arctic exhibit.
might	possibility that an action will happen	The class might also see polar bears.
can	certain ability to do an action	We can go on Tuesday or Thursday.
could	possibility of having the ability to do an action	Perhaps we could also visit the desert exhibit.

Thinking Questions

Which word is a helping verb? Does it tell about the certainty of the action?

1–5. Complete each sentence by writing a modal auxiliary from the chart.

- Whenever it snows, Chantal _____ watch the snow fall from her window.
- She wonders whether she _____ visit the Arctic some day.
- Her parents have said she _____ go after she graduates from high school.
- Chantal thinks she _____ work hard and save enough money for a trip.
- She _____ imagine how exciting it would be to see a polar bear.