

Frozen senses

Time: 1 hour

Introduction This activity is about appreciating how extreme cold might feel, how it might affect our senses and how we might, like the emperor penguins, survive.

Learning Objective:

To write a piece of creative writing imagining being a penguin in the deep freeze of an Antarctic winter.

Resources

1. 'March of the Penguins' or 'Life in the Freezer' video clips
2. Images of penguins in a frozen Antarctic landscape
3. Sticky notes.

1 Children should watch excerpts of 'March of the Penguins' or 'Life in the Freezer' that show images of mid-winter, with penguins huddled together. Ideally, they could watch the whole of 'March of the Penguins' to start this strand of learning.

2 Ask the children to think about the effect of the cold on the senses and the different ways the body might react.

3 Use images of Antarctic landscapes to reinforce the ideas and ask the children to record all their different thoughts on sticky notes.

4 Once you have collected all the ideas, ask the children to put together a piece of writing or poem entitled 'Frozen' that captures the effect of cold on the senses. The children should use similes to describe the feelings: 'as cold as ...', 'as numb as ...', 'as runny as ...', 'shivering like a ...', 'stamping my feet like a ...' etc. The writing may describe the journey from the sea to the penguin colony or how the penguins survive during the depths of winter in their penguin 'huddle'. Why not act out the huddle in the playground on a chilly day and see what it is like!

5 When the stories are complete, can the children share their writing with the music from 'March of the Penguins' in the background. 'Found Love' is a particularly good track to read to.

Differentiation

Draw out the different sensory experiences in words with a picture to capture the scene.

I was frozen.

My body was as cold as ...

My feet were like ...

My eyes were ...

My beak was a ...

My feathers felt like ...

Success Criteria

The children are able to use descriptive language to capture what extreme cold feels like, wherever possible using metaphors, similes or personification.

