

Penguin Adventure

Time: 1 hour to plan, 1 hour to write up and add in artwork.

Introduction This activity introduces the children to penguin life through literacy and ICT. They create a story about a chick being born into the Antarctic World.

Learning Objective:

To combine text and picture images to create a penguin chick adventure, and to develop the features of a good story.

Resources

1. Windows sound recorder
2. Textease
3. Clicker 5 software
4. 'Ponko and the South Pole' Book or 'Happy Feet' DVD or 'March of the Penguins' DVD.

1 Read with the children 'Ponko and the South Pole' or watch excerpts of 'Happy Feet' or 'March of the Penguins' to discover the drama of life as a penguin chick.

2 Get the children to think about the major threats to a young penguin chick:

1. The weather - the driving wind, the howling gales, the bitter cold, the ice and snow.
2. The predators - the bully of the sky; the skua, the killer of the sea; the leopard seal, the hunting pods of killer whales.
3. The landscape - the crevasses, the slippery, icy conditions, the rocks and ice cliffs.
4. The impact of humans - our rubbish waste, our rusting machinery, our oil pollution, our tourist cameras intruding into their Antarctic environment.
5. Other penguin mothers - if they lose their chick to the cold or a predator, they sometimes try and take another chick.

3 Group discussion: what is it like to be a penguin chick? The children should start to plan their story adventure, beginning inside the egg and ending with their new life in the icy cold of the sea. But what trials lie ahead as they struggle to survive in their polar world. Here is an outline for the story

1. Life inside the egg. The first images of the outside world through the cracked egg.
2. Exploring the new icy world outside. Feeding with mother. Learning to stay upright. Meeting other chicks.
3. The bitter cold and snow storms.
4. The threat from above and the skuas.
5. Heading into the water. Learning to swim. Catching a first fish.

6. The threat from below and the leopard seals / killer whales in the sea.

7. The freedom of the water and a new life with penguin playmates. The threat of humans invading their waters.

4 The children should now write out their story. They could use the software package Clicker 5 Bookmaker to import pictures to accompany the text and story. Alternatively, the children can draw their own pictures to go with each part of the story.

5 Once complete, the children could then record their stories so that younger children and even older adults can listen to them. This can be done using the Windows sound recorder or similar.

Differentiation

Using the penguin story outline above, the children can write out for each section of the adventure these three sentences:

1. Describe the scene
2. Describe the penguin's adventure
3. Describe how the penguin survives its adventure.

Success Criteria

The children are able to write a well structured, suspense filled adventure about a young penguin with a clear introduction, three to five key adventures and a conclusion.

They start to appreciate that survival for penguins in Antarctica is tough.