

Penguins



Teacher's Notes

“Penguins” is a reading task designed by Wing Chung based on New Welcome to English 5A, Unit 8.

The reading task

The text is about the physical characteristics of penguins in general, their habitat and their food. There is also a small paragraph introducing the Emperor Penguins, the largest penguins among the 17 species.

Students have to fill in the factsheet about Emperor Penguins and identify the places where penguins live from the map.

Possible new vocabulary

waddle	flippers	Antarctica	squid	coasts
function	emperor	beak	glow	crustaceans
cheeks	wedge	waterproof	belly	camouflage

Classroom Procedure:

- 1) Pre-reading activity: Arouse students' interests towards the topic by asking the questions from the quiz and also introducing the new vocabulary.
- 2) During the reading: Walk around the classroom and offer help where necessary.
- 3) Post-reading activity: After checking answers with students, encourage them to explore more about the different species of penguins through reading books or surfing the internet.

Quiz

- 1) This bird can swim but it cannot fly. What is it?
- 2) Polar bears do not eat penguins even though they are very hungry. Why?
- 3) Why are penguins black and white?

Can you answer the questions? From this quiz, the topic of this passage is...

Penguins

Penguins are birds with black and white feathers and a funny waddle. They can swim well but they cannot fly because their bones are heavy and their flippers are too thin. When they are in the water, they dive and flap their wings. It just looks like they are flying! In fact, there are a total of 17 different kinds of penguins in the world.

Where do penguins live?

All 17 species of penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. Many live at the South Pole on Antarctica. You can find some of them on the coasts of South America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand. The Emperor penguin is the only species that lives in Antarctica through the winter.

What do penguins eat?

Penguins eat seafood and their main diet is fish. They also eat squid, small shrimp like animals called "krill" and crustaceans. Penguins drink salt water. They have a special function in their bodies that takes the salt out of the water they drink!

Krill



The largest penguins – Emperor Penguins



The emperor penguin is the largest of all living penguins. They are nearly 4 feet tall and weigh up to 90 pounds. They have a beak, a large head, short neck, a long body and yellow / orange "glow" on their cheeks. The tail is short and wedge-shaped. They can live to be 20 years old. Penguins have a lighter colour on the belly and a darker colour on their back, which helps camouflage them when they are in the water. Their bodies have a thick layer of fat to help keep them warm and shiny, waterproof feathers to keep their skin dry.



Fill in the blanks.

The Ocean Park is thinking about having some Emperor Penguins in its aquarium, so they are collecting information about them.

Factsheet about Emperor Penguins

Name: Emperor

Address: _____, Southern Hemisphere

Animal Class / Species: _____

Weight: Up to _____

Height: Up to _____

Age: about _____

Food they eat: 1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

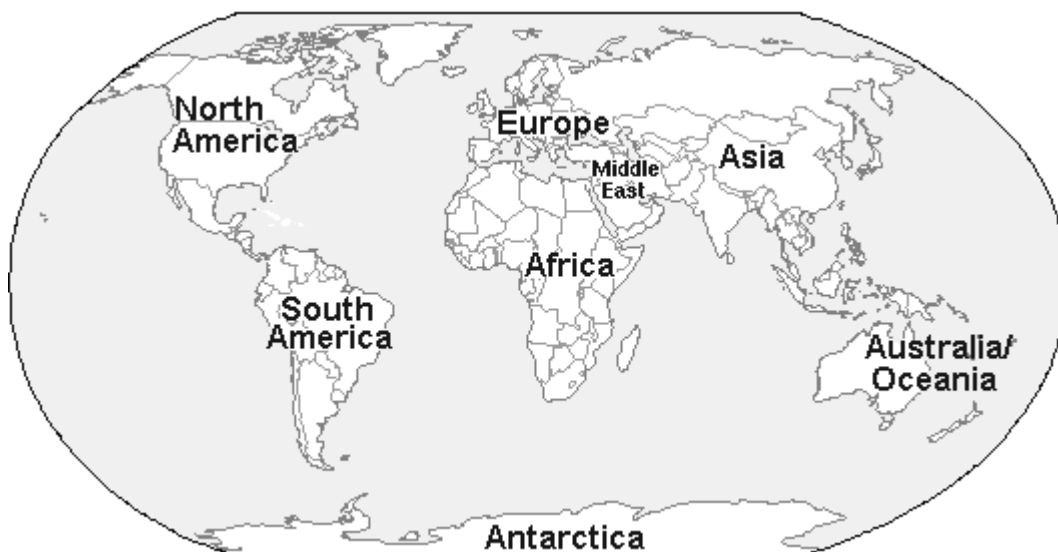
Drink: _____



B. Colour the map.

Where can we find the other species of penguins? Colour the different places.

! Penguins live near the ocean.



Answer Sheet



Fill in the blanks.

The Ocean Park is thinking about having some Emperor Penguins in its aquarium, so they are collecting information about them.

Factsheet about Emperor Penguins

Name: Emperor

Address: **Antarctica**, Southern Hemisphere

Animal Class / Species: **Bird**

Weight: Up to **90 pounds**

Height: **nearly 4 feet**

Age: about **20 years old**

Food they eat: 1) **fish**

2) **squid**

3) **krill**

4) **crustaceans (any three)**

Drink: **salted water**



B. Colour the map.

Where can we find the other species of penguins? Colour the different places.

 *Penguins live near the ocean.*

The coasts (not the whole piece of continent) of Antarctica, South America, Africa and Australia are coloured.

Suggested answers to the quiz.

1) **It is a penguin.**

2) **It is because polar bears live in the Northern Hemisphere while penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. Therefore, they cannot eat penguins even though they are very hungry.**

3) **Black back is for absorbed heat from the sunlight and the white belly is for protect them from being seen by their enemies in the sea.**