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## A Lesson on Penguins by Carson Goehl

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:**

**Lesson Keywords:**

**Lesson Description:**

**Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson**

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### Penguins by

**Content:** The penguin is a bird, but it does not fly. Penguins are not like other birds. They are unique birds, and although they do have feathers, even their feathers are unusual. Other birds have rows of feathers that grow in a specific pattern. A penguin's feathers grow all over, like hair on a mammal. You will not see penguins in the air, and you will not see them in trees. You will see them in the water, in fact you will see them below the surface of the water if you have an underwater video camera.

The penguin is an ocean bird, living in and near the ocean. The penguin spends much time in the ocean, so much of its life is unknown. People only get to know penguins well when they are on land, and the penguin can be at sea for months at a time.

While the penguin is not a great flier as the eagle is, the penguin can out-swim most birds and probably out-swims some other aquatic animals. The penguin has thick strong wings and flippers instead of feet that it uses to push through the water. When the penguin is on land, it walks along slowly, and this limited mobility may be one reason the penguin spends more time in the water. The penguin's food source is in the water, the fish it catches. They have solid bones, while other birds have bones that are not solid.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** Unique **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "Penguins are not like other birds. They are unique birds." What does the word "unique" mean in this sentence?

- A:** They are the only one of its kind
- B:** They are like eagles
- C:** They are the same as one another
- D:** They are similar to hawks

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "unique" correctly?

- A:** My hair color is very unique from anyone else.
- B:** Both of the girls are wearing green shirts and look very unique from one another.
- C:** Those green plants are very unique from each other.
- D:** They both have blue eyes which makes them very unique from one another

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Unusual **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "They are unique birds, and although they do have feathers, even their feathers are unusual." What does the word "unusual" mean in this sentence?

- A:** More common then normal
- B:** Very rare
- C:** Not very common
- D:** Not normal at all

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "unusual" correctly?

- A:** The palm tree was very unusual to trees that she has ever seen
- B:** The freckles on her face are very unusual
- C:** Her blonde hair color was very unusual
- D:** Her scarf was unusual compared to other scarves he had noticed

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Aquatic **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in the story says "The penguin can out-swim most birds and probably out-swims some other aquatic animals." What does the word "aquatic" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Tiny
- B:** In relation to water
- C:** Different colored
- D:** Large

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "aquatic" correctly?

- A:** A fish is an aquatic animal
- B:** An animal that lives on land is an aquatic animal
- C:** A bird that lives on land is also known as an aquatic animal
- D:** Tadpoles are not an aquatic living thing

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Specific **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says that "Other birds have rows of feathers that grow in a specific pattern." What does the word specific mean in this sentence?

- A:** Not very clear to recognize
- B:** Similar to something else
- C:** Very general
- D:** Clearly defined or recognized

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "specific" correctly?

- A:** Her preferences were very specific, she did not care what she ate for dinner
- B:** Her rules were not straightforward and very specific
- C:** It is easy to recognize bees because of their specific coloring
- D:** She did not understant the assignment because the intructions were very specifc

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Task 2: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 words essay on .... Make sure to provide specific examples.

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