



## A Lesson on Penguins by Antonius Hadley

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Comprehending, Writing, Comparing, Contrasting

**Lesson Description:** The goal for this lesson is to learn more information about penguins as well as applying the information learned to compare and contrast to other birds by reading, comprehending, and writing. The student will learn why the passage was written, and what information is important to take out of the reading.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.5: Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

=====

## 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.

=====

---

## 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:** What does the word "unique" mean in the passage?

- A: similar
- B: one of a kind
- C: common
- D: normal

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

- A: My mom is unique because she has blue eyes just like her whole family.
  - B: It is unique that I know how to read.
  - C: This apple is unique because it is half green and half red.
  - D: I have ten fingers, so I am unique.
- 

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** flier **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "flier" mean in the passage?

- A: something that flies
- B: a type of food
- C: a piece of paper
- D: something that swims

**Question:** Which one of these sentences uses the word "flier" correctly?

- A: My mom got a flier about the new soccer team.
  - B: My dad is a great flier since he doesn't get scared when we travel.
  - C: The fliers are annoying because they always bite me.
  - D: Tim isn't a good flier since he doesn't like going into the ocean.
- 

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** mobility **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "mobility" mean in the passage?

- A: stiffness
- B: roughness
- C: smoothness
- D: the ability to move easily

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

- A: The mobility of the broken down car is great.
  - B: Exercising helps the mobility of my legs.
  - C: I can't move my legs because they have great mobility.
  - D: Tom broke his arm so he has mobility in his arms.
- 

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** solid **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "solid" mean in this passage?

- A: weak/ unstable
- B: hard/ firm
- C: frozen
- D: liquid

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

- A: I broke my leg, so that leg is solid.
  - B: My catch in baseball is solid.
  - C: The lake is frozen solid.
  - D: My cat lands on all four legs, so her bones are solid.
-

=====

## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - Penguin and Mammal Similarities

Based on the information in the passage, how are penguins and mammals similar??

### 2 - Land or Sea?

Does the penguin spend more time on the land, or in the sea? Why??

### 3 - Informative or Persuasive?

Based on how the author presented the information, is this passage considered informative, or persuasive??

=====

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** For your assignment, explain what the differences are between birds and penguins. You need to write at least 2 paragraphs, and feel free to do more research to provide more examples.?

=====