



A Lesson on Penguins by Jen St. aubin

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Penguins, aquatic

Lesson Description: Read the passage as many times as you need and look for important details.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.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.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

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.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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.L.4.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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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: Unusual **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What word best defines the word "unusual" in this sentence from the story: "They are unique birds, and although they do have feathers, even their feathers are unusual."

- A: same
- B: normal
- C: different
- D: common

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the word "unusual" correctly?

- A: The birds feathers are unusual because they are the same.
- B: It is unusual to see a penguin climbing a tree.
- C: Ketchup is unusual because it is red.
- D: It is unusual to use a period at the end of a sentence.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Specific **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in this story makes the statement, "Other birds have rows of feathers that grow in a specific pattern." What does "specific" mean?

- A: general
- B: like
- C: normal
- D: exact

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

- A: We took a trip to the specific ocean.
- B: Miss Smith used a specific pen to write on the white board.
- C: It is specific that the bird stays in the cage.
- D: Chocolate is her specific flavor.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: mammal **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In this story the author says, "A penguin's feathers grow all over, like hair on a mammal." What does mammal mean?

- A: A cold-blooded animal covered in scales.
- B: A warm-blooded animal covered in hair.
- C: A cold-blooded covered in hair.
- D: A warm-blooded animal covered in feathers.

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

- A: A snake is a mammal because it is cold-blooded.
- B: A mammal can only be born in a tree.
- C: Animals that eat only plants are mammals.
- D: A mammal is warm-blooded.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: mobility **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in the story says, "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." What does the word mobility mean?

- A: flying
- B: moving
- C: source
- D: flippers

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

- A: The boat's mobility comes from gas.
- B: The frog is sleeping from mobility.
- C: The bear has mobility on the tree.
- D: The bird could not fly and use mobility at the same time.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: In this discussion forum you will answer each question and respond to at least two other students in order to receive full credit.

1 - What do penguins have in common with mammals?

The passage describes some similarities between penguins and mammals. ?Give an example of what penguins and mammals have in common.

2 - Do penguins fly or swim?

In the passage it talks about the penguin's mobility. ?Give a supporting statement that tells the you, the reader, if they fly or swim.

3 - A flier and a swimmer? Is that possible?

In the passage the author describes the kind of flier and swimmer the penguin is. ?Explain what kind swimmer the penguin is and why the author described them in that way.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: What is the main idea of the penguin passage? ?Please provide examples from the passage the support the main idea. ?Did you learn new facts about penguins? ?Please give a few examples to support your answer.

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