

Penguin Power

Cool Creatures

Find out what makes penguins special.

What is black and white and wet all over? A penguin going for a swim! Penguins are birds. They have feathers and lay eggs. Unlike most birds, penguins don't fly. They use their wings as flippers. Penguins flap their flippers to swim underwater. Their webbed feet help them steer.



Doug Allan
Emperor penguins dive
underwater to swim.

Penguins look for food in the ocean. They use their beaks to catch **prey**. Prey is an animal that is eaten by another animal. Penguins eat fish, squid, and **krill**. Krill are tiny animals that look like shrimps.



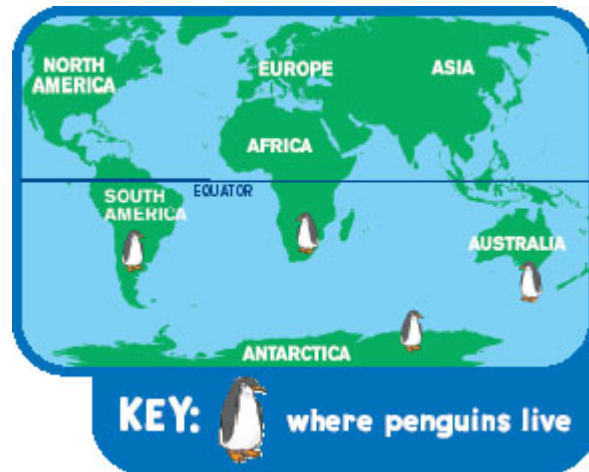
Daniel Cox
Emperor penguins slide on
their bellies across the
snow.

On land, penguins walk with a waddle or a hop. They often slide on their bellies to travel over ice or snow. They use their flippers and feet to help them slide.



Photodynamic/Shutterstock
A gentoo penguin feeds its chicks.

Female penguins lay eggs on land. Both parents raise the chicks. The parents take turns finding food in the ocean. They eat the food, then throw it up to feed their chicks.



Leigh Haeger

Penguins live in the **Southern Hemisphere**. That is the part of Earth below the **equator**. The equator is the make-believe line around the center of Earth. Most penguins live in Antarctica, where it is cold. Some live near the equator. It is warm there.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. In which hemisphere do penguins live?

2. Which part of their bodies do penguins use to swim?

3. Based on the passage and its pictures, why do you think penguins walk with a waddle?

4. What is the purpose of this passage?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

After female penguins lay their eggs on land, both parents help raise the chicks by taking turns finding food in the ocean.

What? both parents

5. (do) What?

6. When?

7. How?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Eagles use their wings to fly, _____ penguins use their wings to swim.

- A but
- B because
- C so

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **steer** (steer): to guide in the direction you want to go.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **steer**.
- a. When riding a horse, you use the reins to steer the horse in the direction that you want to go.
 - b. If you want to steer your car to the left, you turn the steering wheel to the left.
 - c. It was very hard for the captain to steer the large ship when the water was rough.
 - d. The handlebars on a bike are what you use to steer the bike in the direction you want to ride in.
 - e. Sharon was mad at her friend Suzy, so she tried to steer clear of her during the school day.

10. Which picture shows something you would want to steer clear of?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 500

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The passage describes penguins. It discusses how they find food, what they eat, how they move, and where they live.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give students a copy of the passage so that they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. In which hemisphere do penguins live? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. [paragraph 5]

2. Which part of their bodies do penguins use to swim? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Penguins use their wings to swim. [paragraph 1]

3. Based on the passage and its pictures, why do you think penguins walk with a waddle? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Penguins walk with a waddle because they have small, short feet. They don't have long legs like some other animals, so they wiggle from side to side when walking.

4. What is the purpose of this passage? [Main Idea]

Suggested answer: The purpose of this passage is to describe what makes penguins special. More specifically, it discusses where penguins live, how they walk and swim, what they eat, and how they raise their babies.

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

After female penguins lay their eggs on land, both parents help raise the chicks by taking turns finding food in the ocean.

What? both parents

5. (do) What? **help raise the chicks**

6. When? **after female penguins lay their eggs on land**

7. How? **by taking turns finding food in the ocean**

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Eagles use their wings to fly, _____ penguins use their wings to swim.

A but

B because

C so

To the Teacher: ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **steer** (steer): to guide in the direction you want to go.

Step 1: Introduce the word

- Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (steer)
- Teacher says: "This word is steer. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "steer."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- Teacher says: "Steer is to guide in the direction you want to go."
- Teacher says: "The passage says that penguins use their feet to help them steer, so when penguins want to change direction, they do so by using their feet. Their feet are like the steering wheel in a car!"

- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "steer."]

Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

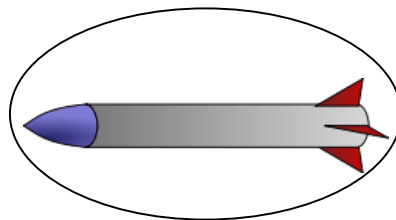
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 - e. Sharon was mad at her friend Suzy, so she tried to steer clear of her during the school day.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

To the Teacher: This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10.** Which picture shows something you would want to steer clear of?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: prey, equator, Southern Hemisphere, Antarctica