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MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

A FILM BY LUC JACQUET

Each winter, alone in the pitiless ice deserts of Antarctica, deep in the most inhospitable terrain on Earth, a truly remarkable journey takes place as it has done for millennia. Emperor penguins in their thousands abandon the deep blue security of their ocean home and clamber onto the frozen ice to begin their long journey into a region so bleak, so extreme, it supports no other wildlife at this time of year. In single file, the penguins march blinded by blizzards, buffeted by gale force winds. Resolute, indomitable, driven by the overpowering urge to reproduce, to assure the survival of the species.

Guided by instinct, by the otherworldly radiance of the Southern Cross, they head unerringly for their traditional breeding ground where - after a ritual courtship of intricate dances and delicate maneuvering, accompanied by a cacophony of ecstatic song - they will pair off into monogamous couples and mate.

The days grow shorter, the weather ever more bitter. The females remain long enough only to lay a single egg. Once this is accomplished, exhausted by weeks without nourishment, they begin their return journey across the ice-field to the fish-filled seas. The journey is hazardous, and rapacious leopard seals a predatory threat. The male emperors are left behind to guard and hatch the precious eggs, which they cradle at all times on top of their feet. Subjected to subzero temperatures and the terrible trials of the polar winter, they too face great dangers.

After two long months during which the males eat nothing, the eggs begin to hatch. Once they have emerged into their ghostly white new world, the chicks cannot survive for long on their fathers' limited food reserves. If their mothers are late returning from the ocean with food, the newly-hatched young will die.

Once the families are reunited, the roles reverse, the mothers remaining with their new young while their mates head, exhausted and starved, for the sea, and food. While the adults fish, the chicks face the ever-present threat of attack by prowling giant petrels. As the weather grows warmer and the ice floes finally begin to crack and melt, the adults will repeat their arduous journey countless times, marching many hundreds of miles over some of the most treacherous territory on Earth, until the chicks are ready to take their first faltering dive into the deep blue waters of the Antarctic.

March of the Penguins tells one of the most beautiful love stories on Earth.

www.filmeducation.org

www.marchofthepenguinsmovie.co.uk

BONNE POCHE

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The Life Cycle of the Penguin

MONTH	LENGTH OF DAY	CONDITION OF THE ICE	WEATHER	PENGUIN BEHAVIOUR
FEBRUARY				
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				
JANUARY				



ANTARCTICA

Antarctica has been described as the coldest, windiest, driest and darkest continent on the planet.

Use the Information Fact File on Antarctica and non-fiction books to help you complete the profile below.

Location:

Climate:

Weather:

People:

Animals:



EXTENSION

What do you think it would be like to visit Antarctica? Imagine you have visited Antarctica to see the emperor penguins in their natural habitat. Write a story to describe your adventure. Create a storyboard for your own story as if you were going to make it into a film.

Learning Objectives:

Antarctica – research the Antarctic environment and the wider geographical area (Geography)

Describe Antarctica in terms of location, weather, climate (Geography)

Seasonal changes in weather (Geography)

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EMPEROR PENGUINS

Emperor penguins are large birds which live in freezing conditions. Use the March of the Penguins information files to find out more about emperor penguins and create your own penguin profile.

Animal name:

Scientific name:

Appearance:

Weight:

Height:

Life span:

Habitat:

Diet:

Reproduction:

Learning Objective: Looking at how penguins move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce (Science)

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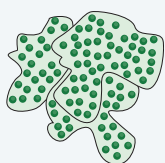
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FOOD WEBS

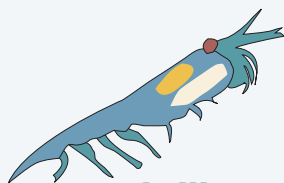
Every living thing needs to eat to stay alive. This is the same for emperor penguins and the animals that live at the Antarctic. For example, krill eat algae, emperor penguins eat krill, leopard seals eat emperor penguins.

This is called a food chain, or a food web.

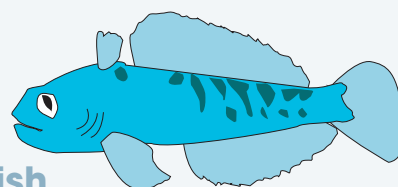
Use the pictures of the animals below to draw an example of an Antarctic food web. Use the Information Fact Files and reference books to help you. Remember all food chains start with a plant.



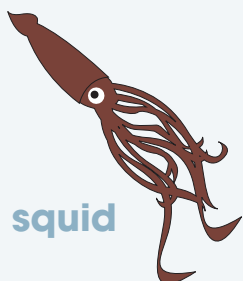
algae



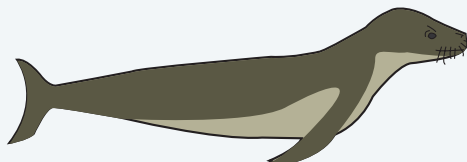
krill



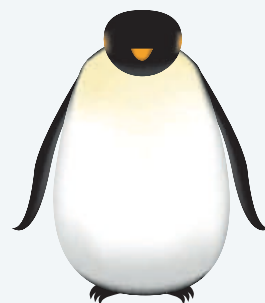
fish



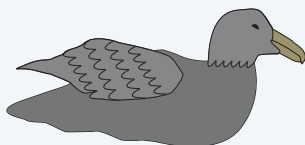
squid



leopard seals



emperor penguins



giant petrels



Antarctic skuas



orca

Learning Objective: Life cycles and food chains – feeding relationships (Science)

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ANTARCTIC FOOD WEB



Learning Objective: Life cycles and food chains – feeding relationships (Science)

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PENGUIN PUZZLE

These penguin words have been muddled up. Can you solve the puzzle and find the hidden word?

s	h	c	k	c	i		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
l	e	o	o	c	i	n	s
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
g	e	p	i	n	u	n	
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e	d	w	b	e	b		
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r	m	e	p	e	r	o	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

The hidden word is:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Answers: chicks, colonies, penguin, webbed, emperor, hidden word: slide.

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EXTENSION

Choose some words connected to Antarctica to muddle up and give to a friend to work out the real word.



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PENGUIN QUIZ



Test your knowledge about emperor penguins and the Antarctic by answering the questions below.

1. What do emperor penguins eat?

2. What is the name of the group that penguins create when they gather together?

3. What is a baby penguin called?

4. Which parent is looking after the penguin egg when it hatches?

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5. What special features do penguins have to:

a) help them trek across the ice?

b) swim underwater?

c) stay warm in the freezing weather?

6. Describe the weather at the Antarctic

7. Where is the Antarctic located?

8. Name 5 animals which can be found in Antarctica

Learning Objective:

Looking at how penguins move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce (Science)

Describe Antarctica in terms of location, weather, climate (Geography)

Seasonal changes in weather (Geography)

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WADDLING WORDS

Every penguin is huddled against the cold.
Mothers are far away hunting for fish.
Parents both care only for their chicks.
Early in their lives they feel the icy wind.
Resting on the ice, they dream of the ocean.
One day they will hunt for fish themselves.
Return in time to have chicks of their own.



Above is an acrostic poem for the word emperor. Write the 'penguin' part of the poem by describing the way that penguins travel in the sea and across the ice. There is a word bank at the bottom of the page to help you!

P

E

N

G

U

I

N

WORD BANK waddle wobble slide glide slip
dive swim toboggan flap spin swirl

Learning Objective: To write an acrostic poem about penguins (Literacy)

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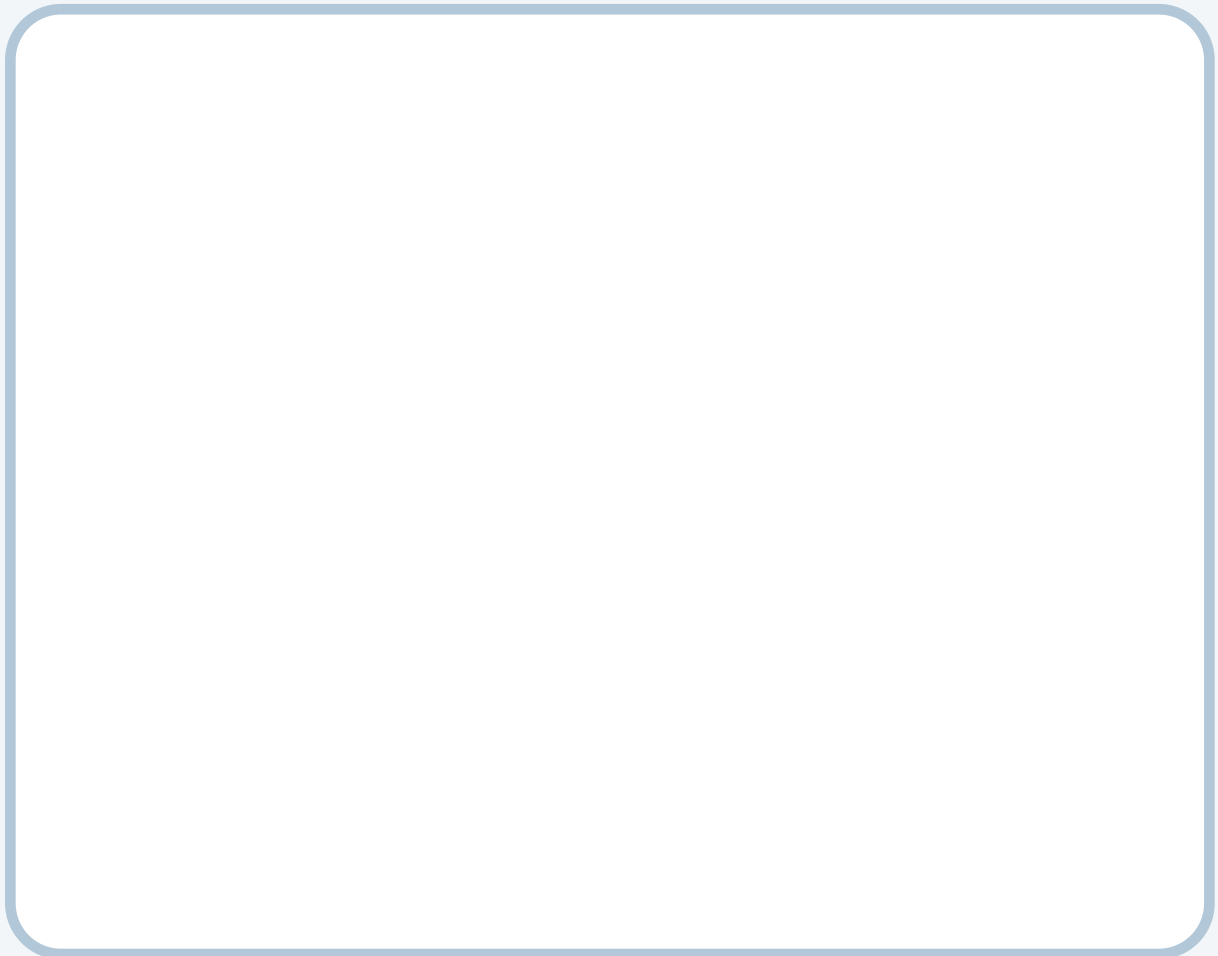
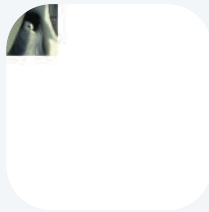
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EXTENSION

Use the film stills to help you to draw some pictures to illustrate your poem.



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