



What Do You Know about Penguins?

What do you know about penguins? Most likely, you know that these birds do not live in the warm places on Earth. In fact, many penguins live in and around Antarctica where it is very cold.

You will know that penguins are mostly black and white. But what other colours can you see on a penguin?

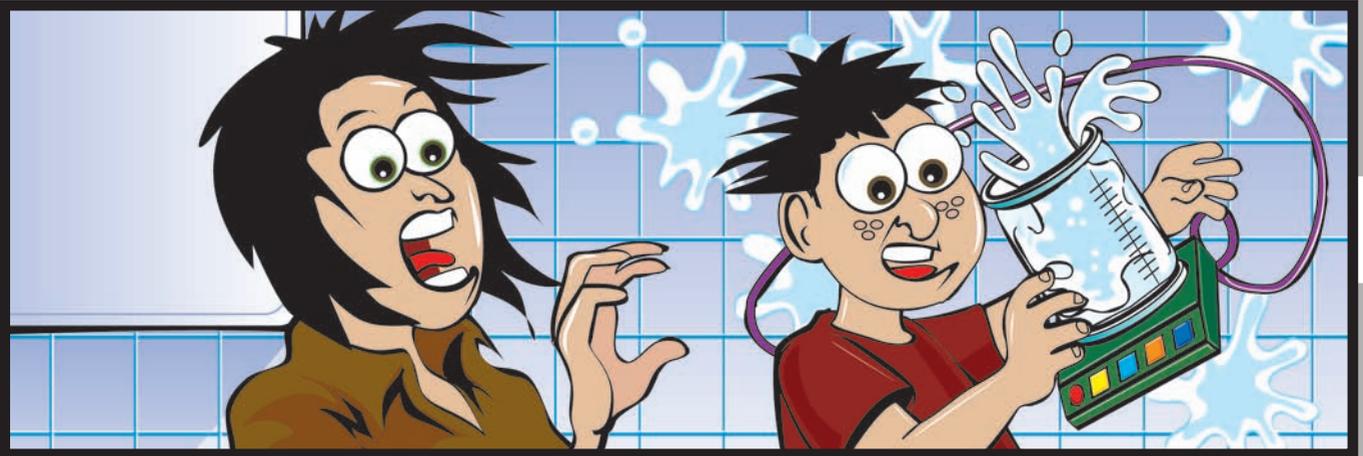
Do you know that penguins eat fish and krill from the ocean? You will know that they dive and swim



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in the ocean to catch their prey, but do you know how they move around on land? They waddle on their two short legs. Their wings help them balance.

Sometimes, penguins surf across the ice on their stomachs. When they surf, they use their wings and feet to push themselves along.



Matthew's Milkshake

Matthew wanted to make something. "Shall I make a milkshake?" he asked his mother.

"Sure," Matthew's mother answered. "You can begin by getting out the blender. That'll help you mix the milkshake well." So, Matthew got out the blender and put in the milk and ice-cream. "Now I need to mix it," he said. "This is the fun part."

Matthew turned the blender on, but he forgot to put on the lid. The milk shot out of the blender all



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over the kitchen wall. Blobs of ice-cream hit the wall, too.

“Stop!” yelled Matthew’s mother. “Stop the blender!” But Matthew could not remember which was the *Stop* button. By now, there was milk and ice-cream all over the place.

“This is the *Stop* button,” said Matthew’s mother as she stopped the blender. “Now you have to clean up the mess!”



The Year of a Female Polar Bear

Polar bears are large animals that live in the Arctic. It is very cold in the Arctic. The temperatures are well below zero in the winter. Ice covers the land and sea.

During the winter, a female polar bear gives birth to her cubs. She does this in a den under the snow.

In spring, the female polar bear and her cubs come out of their den. The female polar bear takes her cubs northwards where they feed on seal pups.



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During the summer, the female bear and her cubs move towards the sea to hunt seals.

In autumn, the female polar bear takes her young cubs back to the land where they spend the winter. They begin making dens under the snow again. When the cubs are two years old, they leave their mother. She is then ready to mate again.



Wendy Windmill's Story

“Listen to this story,” Wendy Windmill said to her five friends as she pulled out a piece of paper from her pocket.

“Your stories are boring,” said Danny Duckbill.

“Even your best-ever story was boring.”

“But this story is different,” said Wendy. “You might learn something from it. It’s about how a scientist found a new sound.”



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“You don’t find sounds,” said Molly Monkton. “You hear them.”

“But this story is scary science fiction,” said Wendy.

“So, does the scientist find the new sound on another planet?” asked Peter Popcorn.

“No,” said Wendy. “The scientist grows big ears. They get so big that soon he can hear all the sounds that dogs can hear. That’s how he finds a new sound.”



Marine Turtles

Marine turtles are one of the oldest groups of reptiles. They have lived on Earth for millions of years. Marine turtles are quite large. Some marine turtles can grow to 2 m long.

Marine turtles make their home in the ocean. The only time they come ashore is to lay their eggs in holes that they dig in the sand. The female turtle then covers the eggs with sand and goes back into the sea. She does not look after the eggs or the baby turtles that hatch six to eight weeks later.



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The baby turtles are in great danger when they hatch and make their way to the water. Many are killed and eaten by birds.

Adult turtles eat both plants and animals. As they do not have teeth, they just swallow their food.



Sue Ellen

Sue Ellen was a giant who liked to travel. She had been everywhere.

“There isn’t any place in the world that I haven’t been to,” she said to her giant friend, Big Boris. “I’ve been to places where they make houses in trees. I’ve been to places where they drink out of coconut shells. I’ve been to places where people are friendly. I’ve been to places where people are unfriendly. I’ve been to places where there are no people at all.”



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“You are very brave,” said Big Boris. “I would like to travel, but I’m too scared. I would even like to live somewhere else.”

“Travel is good,” said Sue Ellen, “but you need to think twice before you go and live somewhere else. I don’t know of a better place to live than right here in Enormous Land.”



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Land Transport

Transport means getting people and goods from one place to another. Today, people and goods can be moved by cars, trains, ships, trucks, and planes. But many years ago, transport was different.

One of the first ways people moved goods was by sled. Early hunters used sleds to move goods around. When the wheel was invented, land transport changed. People started using carts pulled by oxen and horses. Cars and trucks later replaced these carts.



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Today, long trains move big loads of goods. Some trains have special cars to carry special loads. Long flat cars carry pipes and logs. Tanks carry oil and gas.

Today, some trains are very fast. These trains can move people from one place to another very quickly. They can move goods quickly, too.



The Dingo Hunt

My brother could tell that the end of the hunt was drawing near. He and his friend Jackson had followed the dingo's trail all day. They were tired and they knew that the dingo would be tired, too.

The dingo was also losing blood. The night before, the dingo had attacked and killed some sheep. The farm dogs had, in turn, attacked it. One dog had bitten the dingo's head before it could run away.

Now it was getting dark, so my brother turned on the torch he had brought with him. He didn't want



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to lose the trail of blood. He raised the light, and in the distance they could see the shape of the dingo moving very slowly, its head hung low.

My brother lowered the light and they silently followed the trail.



Keeping Warm

Crocodiles cannot sweat to get cool or shiver to warm up like mammals do. This is because crocodiles are cold-blooded reptiles.

Crocodiles are always the same temperature as the place that they are in. If they are in the sun, they are warm. If they are in the shade, they are cool. If they stay in the same spot all day and night, their body temperature will rise and fall.

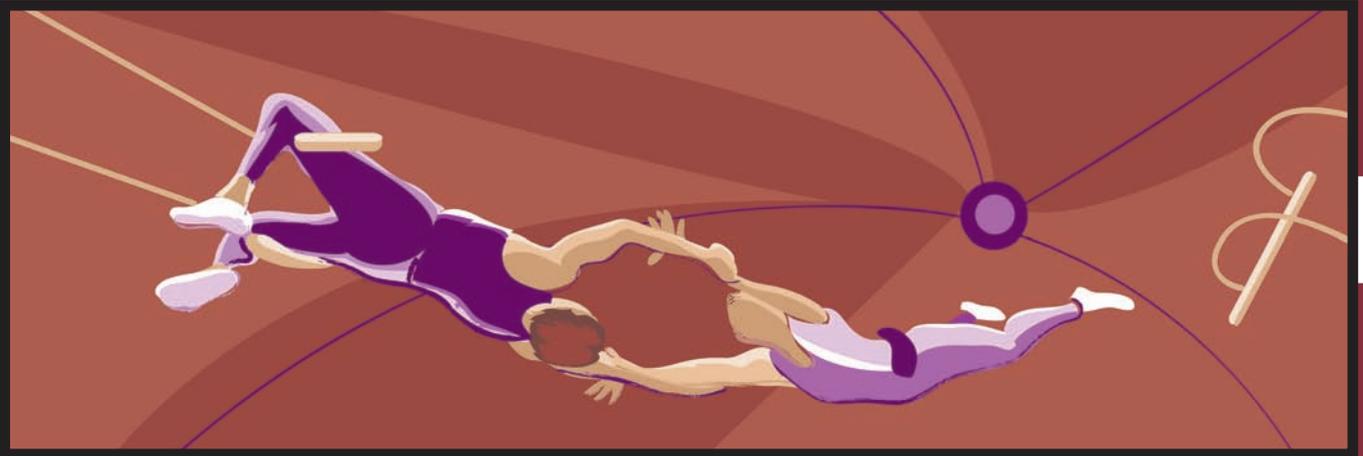
To keep from getting too hot or too cold, crocodiles move around during the day. In the



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morning, they lie on riverbanks until they are warm. They move into the water or the shade in the hottest part of the day.

In the late afternoon, crocodiles lie in the sun again to warm up. Then they spend the night in the water. They do this because water cools down more slowly than land.



Arlo and Angie's New Show

Arlo and Angie had just arrived in the country and already had a job. They were part of an acrobatic show. Arlo and Angie were trapeze artists who worked together on the high swings. They took turns to hold and catch each other as they jumped from swing to swing.

"I'd give anything to be able to flip over twice before you caught me," Angie said one day.

"That would be a good thing for us to practise," agreed Arlo.



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So Arlo and Angie practised until they could do it.

At the show that night, Angie swung out. She pointed her toes to help her swing further, then she swung back and out again. She let go of her swing and flipped over twice. The people watching gasped. Arlo's swing was not near enough. Surely Angie would fall and be hurt!



Working on a Banana Plantation

There are many banana plantations around the world. They are in warm places, because bananas need warmth to grow. Some banana plantations are very big. They have houses for the workers to live in. Some have schools for the workers' children to go to.

Many people work on banana plantations. Some people trim the banana plants. Others check that the plants do not have a disease. Some people pick the fruit.



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Most bananas are picked by hand. Most of the time men pick the bananas. This is because the bunches are heavy. One man holds the bunch while another man cuts the thick stem.

Bananas must be picked when they are green. They are ripened later. When the bunches are picked, the men carry them to a packing shed. At the packing shed, workers wash the bananas and pack them into boxes.



The New Teacher

The students at my school thought I was dumb because I wasn't able to read or write. But I wasn't dumb. I knew the letters and words in my head, but in books they were all muddled up. Much of the time, I just sat and did nothing at reading and writing time.

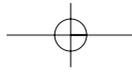
Then one day, a new teacher came to our school and talked to me about reading and writing. Then, she gave me a little mirror and told me to hold it up in front of the book and look into it.



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And there they were – all the letters and words that I could see in my head! I read the book right there and then without a single mistake.

When I was done, the teacher smiled. I smiled, too, but I was so excited I wanted to run and jump and shout.



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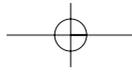
Numbers

What do you know about numbers? Do you know what odd and even numbers are? Here are two questions for you to answer. See if you are right before you read the answer.

1. What is a quick way to add 299 and 701?

The quickest way is to add 1 to 299 and take 1 away from 701. All you then have to do is add 300 and 700.



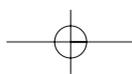


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2. How can you tell if a number is a prime number? First, it has to be an odd number. Even numbers can all be divided by 2. Then, it has to be a number that no number divides into other than 1 and itself.

So, 47 would be a prime number. But, 49 is not a prime number because it can be divided by 7.

Now, why don't you make up a question about an odd or an even number?





The Snowstorm

“Run out to the shed and bring some more firewood in,” Dad said to my brother, Luther.

He turned to me and said, “Light the fire, Kathryn. The word is there’ll be a terrible snowstorm tonight. I’ll get the candles.”

No sooner had he finished talking than snow started to fall like tiny white pearls. Luther rushed in with a load of firewood and then ran right back out to get some more.



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“That’s it,” he said, after the third load. “The wind’s getting up and the snow’s too thick for me to see through.”

We huddled by the fire as the storm raged outside like an angry bull. Soon, the light flickered twice and went out.

“We’ll heat up some beans and toast some bread on the fire,” Dad said. “That should keep the wolves away.”