

If You Were a Penguin

Title: Design your own penguin

Grade Level: Kindergarten-Second Grade

Subject: Social Studies

Rationale: This lesson will give the students the opportunity to learn about the characteristics of the different species of penguins. The students will be able to create a new penguin species.

Objectives:

1. The students will learn about the characteristics of the different species of penguins.
2. The students will create their own penguin species.

Pennsylvania Academic Standards:

Academic Standards for Science:

3.3.4.A Know the similarities and differences of living things

3.3.4.C Know that characteristics are inherited and, thus offspring closely resemble their parents

Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening:

1.6.3.B Listen to a selection of literature (fiction and/or nonfiction)

1.6.3.D Contribute to discussions

Materials:

If You Were a Penguin by Wendell and Florence Minor

White plain paper

Lined paper

Colored pencils, crayons, markers

Pencils

Vocabulary: species

Teaching and Learning Activity:

Before Lesson: Discuss the vocabulary word, species. Species is a class of animals having some common characteristics or qualities. Explain that all living things on earth have scientific names, for example, the scientific term for people is *Homo sapiens*. There are 17 different species of penguins:

1. Emperor (*Aptenodytes forsteri*)
2. King (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*)
3. Rockhoppers (*Eudyptes chrysomcome*)
4. Gentoo (*Pygoscelis papua*)
5. Magellanic (*Spheniscus magellanicus*)
6. Galapagos (*Spheniscus mendiculus*)

7. Adélie (*Pygoscelis adeliae*)
8. African (*Spheniscus demersus*)
9. Fairy (Little Blue) (*Eudyptula minor*)
10. Royal (*Eudyptes schlegeli*)
11. Yellow-eyed (*Megadyptes antipodes*)
12. Snares (*Eudyptes robustus*)
13. Chinstrap (*Pygoscelis Antarctica*)
14. Humboldt (*Spheniscus humboldti*)
15. Macaroni (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*)
16. Fiordland (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*)
17. Erect-crested (*Eudyptes sclateri*)

During Lesson: Read to students the book, If You Were a Penguin by Wendell and Florence Minor. As the teacher is reading the book, emphasize the different species of penguins, what they look like, where they live, what they eat, and how they act.

As a class make a chart to compare and contrast the characteristics of the different species mentioned in the book:

	Where they live	What they eat	Describe their homes	What they do
Emperor				
Chinstrap				
Adélie				
Macaroni				
Fairy (Little Blue)				
Magellanic				
Gentoo				
King				
Rockhopper				
Royal				

Closure: After discussing the characteristics of the species of the penguins, have the students create their own penguin species. Using the plain white paper the students can draw a picture of their penguin and using the lined paper the students can describe where the penguin lives, what it eats, what activities it does and describe its house. Allow the students to work in pairs if necessary.

Evaluation: Students present their penguin species.

Extension Activities:

The students can make a penguin out of a toilet paper roll.

Materials:

- a toilet paper roll
 - markers or crayons
 - scissors
 - glue
 - print out a template from www.dltk-kids.com/animals/ppenguin.asp
1. Print out the template of choice
 2. Color the pieces as appropriate and cut them out
 3. Glue the large rectangular piece around the toilet paper tube
 4. Glue on the white “bib”
 5. Glue on the black wings
 6. Fold the beak on the dotted line and glue the bottom half to the tube
 7. Fold the feet and glue the tabs to the inside of the tube
 8. Glue on the eyes and the bowtie depending on whether you want a girl or a boy

The students could also decorate the toilet paper roll to reflect the penguin they designed.

Related books:

Growing Up Wild: Penguins by Sandra Markle

The Penguin by Sabrina Crewe

Penguin photographed by Neil Fletcher

Related Websites:

<http://www.penguins.cl/penguins-species.htm>