

## Little Penguin Finds His Way Home

Little Penguin is lost in the Arctic Circle near the North Pole. He finds Mr. Walrus sitting on an ice floe. Mr. Walrus sees Little Penguin and says, "Little Penguin, you must get in the water and swim south. You're a very long way from Antarctica, your home."



"But Mr. Walrus, the water is soooo cold. How can I jump in it, I'll freeze!"

Mr. Walrus answers gently, "You have body parts that will help you survive, Little Penguin. These body parts are called adaptations. You have a layer of fat under your skin. This adaptation will keep you warm."

So Little Penguin jumps in the water. "Mr. Walrus, do I have an adaptation that will help me swim?"

"Move your flippers up and down. You'll be surprised what a great swimmer you are," yells Mr. Walrus as he swims away using HIS flippers.

"Mr. Walrus is right," thinks Little Penguin. "I can swim really fast with my flippers and I don't even feel the cold water. I must have a thick layer of fat."

Little Penguin swims and swims though the water, having a great time. Then he sees a black and white animal jumping in the water and swimming really fast.

"I've never seen an animal like that before. He has the same colors on his body that I do," says Little Penguin to himself. "Maybe he's a big penguin. I'll ask him if he knows the way to Antarctica."

Little Penguin swims right up to the animal. "Excuse me, are you a penguin?" he asks.

Mr. Whale stops and looks at Little Penguin. "No, I'm not a penguin, I'm a killer whale," he answers.

"Oh, I'm sorry," replies an embarrassed Little Penguin. "You're black and white like me, so I thought you might be a penguin."

Mr. Whale squeaks "Little Penguin, my black and white coloration helps me hide in the ocean, just like yours does. We're both camouflaged."

Little Penguin is shocked. "Hide? Why would I want to hide?"

Mr. Whale says sternly to Little Penguin, "Sometimes you must hide because killer whales, just like me, may want to eat you for dinner. Your black and white coloration is an adaptation that keeps you safe from predators." With that piece of advice, Mr. Whale swims away.

Little Penguin continues swimming, a little more carefully this time. He begins to feel very tired and swims slower and slower. A sea lion swims up next to him and says, "Little Penguin, you're a long way from home. How did you get way up here?"

Little Penguin looks at Mrs. Sea Lion and replies, "I got lost in the Arctic and Mr. Walrus told me to swim south with my flippers. I was worried about getting too cold but he said my layer of fat would keep me warm. Mr. Whale said my colors would hide me from other animals and not to be too friendly to strangers. But now I'm getting very tired, and I still have a long way to go."

Mrs. Sea Lion takes Little Penguin to the rocky coast of California where her sea lion group is resting.

"Little Penguin, you can rest here on the rocks for a little while. Tomorrow you can start out on your journey refreshed." So Little Penguin sits down and rests his tired body.

When morning comes, Mrs. Sea Lion and her group wave good-bye as Little Penguin begins his journey again. Little Penguin is very hungry. "How do I find something to eat that won't eat me?" he thinks.

Off in the distance, Little Penguin sees a dolphin eating some fish. "That animal is eating fish so it probably won't eat me. She has a long beak like mine, maybe she'll show me how to catch fish."

So Little Penguin swims up to the dolphin and asks her how to catch fish.

"Oh, there is nothing to it," says Mrs. Dolphin. "With my long dolphin snout, it's easy to catch fish, just watch me. Your beak is a great adaptation to help you catch fish, too."

So Little Penguin watches Mrs. Dolphin catch fish, and before too long he's catching fish to eat, too. "Thank you so much," Mrs. Dolphin. "I'll be able to swim much faster now that I've eaten. Can you direct me toward Antarctica?"

Mrs. Dolphin says, "Well, Little Penguin, you're in the South Pacific Ocean now, if you keep swimming south you'll be in Antarctica soon." Mrs. Dolphin swims away.

Little Penguin is so excited, he can't wait to get home. He keeps swimming and eating. Sure enough, a few weeks later, he sees some penguins just like him. Finally, he makes it to Antarctica.

He tells his new friends all about his trip and how he learned his adaptations—a layer of fat for warmth, flippers for swimming, a black and white pattern for camouflage, and a sharp beak for catching fish. Little Penguin never again wandered so far from home.

### Action: Storyboard

1. Create animal felt pieces. Use the killer whale, sea lion, and penguin images; use a dolphin image; and the walrus image. Create the felt globe large enough to accommodate felt animals.
2. Assemble the felt story board by placing the globe in the middle and each animal in the following places; walrus in the Arctic, killer whale in the north Pacific Ocean, sea lion on the coast of California, and the dolphin the the south Pacific Ocean. The penguin will move across the board from the Arctic to the Antarctic.
3. Begin the activity by introducing students to the felt board. Can they name the animals? Can they identify where the animals live? Any other countries? Can they name some oceans? Where is the Arctic? The Antarctic?
4. Once students are familiar with the board, read the [Little Penguin Finds His Way Home](#). Move the penguin as you read.

(Taken from the Sea World website: [www.seaworld.org](http://www.seaworld.org)

Webpage address:

<http://www.seaworld.org/just%2Dfor%2Dteachers/guides/ocean%2Dfriends/littlepenguin.htm>)