

The Penguin Race

Name

Date

Student Response

My score for this book is/10.

It was a book.

1. A Fast Penguin Race

Thr..... penguins walked
to the t..... of a mountain.

P1 ran f.....!
It ran down the snowy m..... .

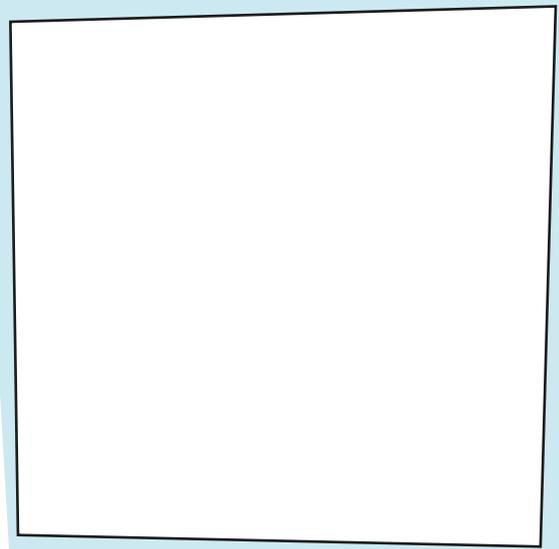
P2 r..... fast!
It ran down the sn..... mountain.

But P3 slid p..... P1 and P2.

P3 was the f.....
penguin!



2. Draw P3 in the icy water.



3. Read, cover, spell!

Read	Cover	Spell
best	b ✋ st	.....
fast	f ✋ t	.....
fastest	f ✋ stest	.....
first	f ✋ st	.....
past	p ✋ st	.....
ran	r ✋ n	.....
run	r ✋ n	.....
top	t ✋ o	.....
two	t ✋ o	.....
three	t ✋ ree	.....



You've finished!
What will you read next?

Teaching Unit

The Penguin Race

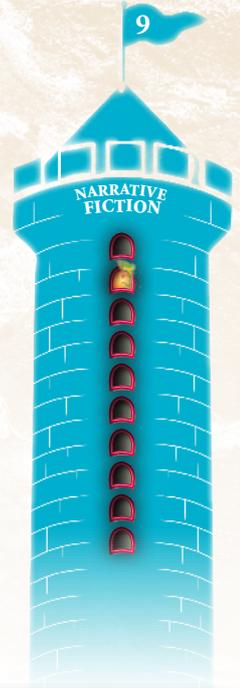
Level 9 Fiction – Narrative

Curriculum: English; Maths, Science, Geography
Book Synopsis: Three penguins, P1, P2 and P3, race to the bottom of a mountain; but the winner is not the fastest runner.

Non-High Frequency Words: Most words are repeated and supported by clear illustrations.

High Frequency Words: *The Penguin Race* has a very high percentage of high frequency words.

Comprehension: The Teaching Unit's focus is on seven areas of comprehension – connection, inference, importance, questioning, summarising, synthesis and visual. We advise teachers to tailor literal comprehension questions for each group.



Inside Front Cover: Glossary

Title Page: Story Introduction

Page 2

Narrative – Orientation

Introduce the characters, time and place.

Language Features

“When” words: One day

“Who” words: three penguins

“How” words: walked

“Where” words: to the top of a mountain

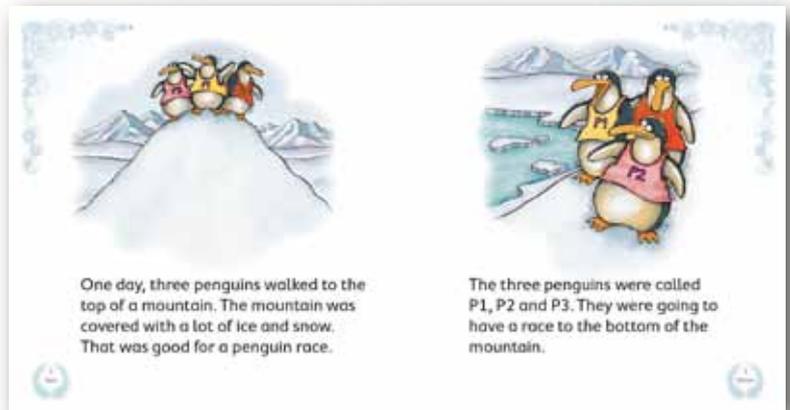
“What” words: for a penguin race

Comprehension – Inference, Visual

How long do you think it took the penguins to walk to the top of the mountain? If you were one of the penguins, what would you see?

English, Maths, Arts and Geography Activity

Students draw a mountain that is as tall as their hand (from wrist to finger tips) and three penguins of different heights. Write a caption.



Page 3

Narrative – Orientation

Introduce the characters' names and purpose.

Language Features

Antonyms: bottom (“top” on page 2)

Singular and plural: penguins (“penguin” on page 2)

Repeated nouns: mountain, penguins, race

Comprehension – Estimation, Connection

Where do you think the penguins will end their race – in the water or in the snow? Where would you want to finish the race – for the most fun?

English and Arts Activity

Students design and draw new race tops for the three penguins. They write a new name on each top starting with “P”.

Pages 4 and 5

Narrative – Event

P1 and P2 run down the mountain.

Language Features

Adjective and noun: snowy mountain (“snow” on page 2)

Alliteration: Slip, slither, slide!

Words ending in “st”: first, fast

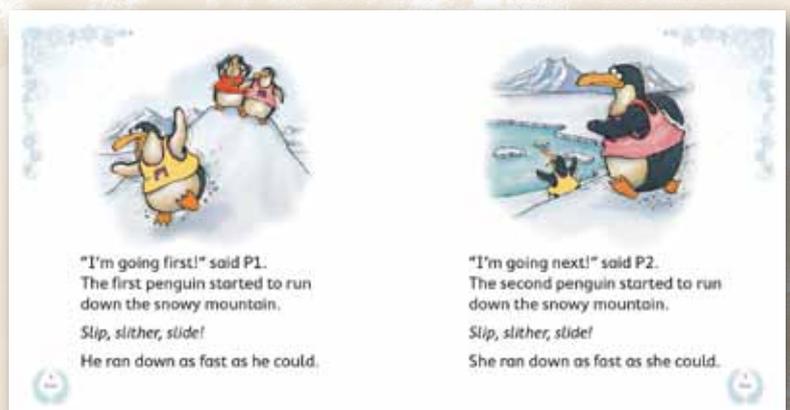
Word family and tense: run, ran

Comprehension – Importance, Question

Why was it important for only one penguin to run at a time? What question should P1 have asked the other two penguins first? Why?

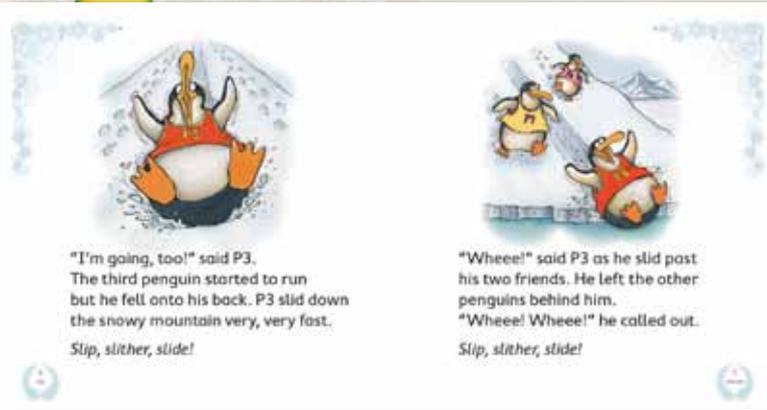
English, Arts, Health and Safety Activity

Redraw the illustration with a speech bubble above P1 saying, “I slip, slither and slide!” Fast finishing students can write a speech bubble for P2, too.





I love watching the penguin race, and I wish I could join them. Imagine if it was a dragon race!



Pages 6 and 7

Narrative – Event and Complication

P3 falls onto his back.

Language Features

Numerical adjectives: third ("first", "second" on pages 4 and 5)

Revise adjective and noun: snowy mountain

Rhyming words: fast, past

Word family and tense: slid, slide

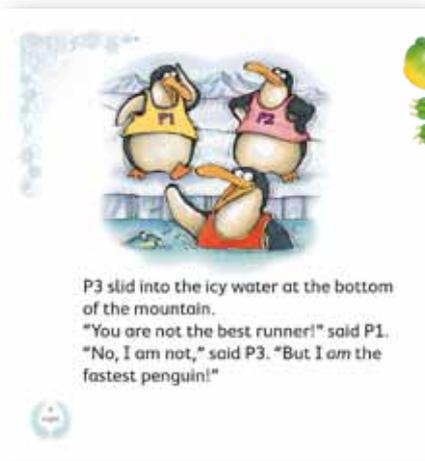
Comprehension – Inference, Visual

How do the other two penguins feel about P3 overtaking them? Why are they happy? What might happen when P3 lands in the water?

English, Arts and Geography Activity

What words could describe how it may feel if you landed in the water. Students draw themselves wearing a top with their name (E1 – for Emily) and a speech bubble, e.g. "The water is icy cold and freezing!"

The narrative ends with a lesson for the P1 and P2 who started running before P3. But they're friends so P1 and P2 are happy that P3 was the fastest penguin!



Page 8

Narrative – Resolution and Coda

An innocent mishap causes the slowest penguin to finish first.

Language Features

Adjectives and nouns: icy water ("ice" on page 2); best runner

Comparative adjective: fastest ("fast" on pages 4–7)

Revise words ending in "st": best ("fast", "past" on pages 6 and 7)

Comprehension – Summarise, Synthesise

Why was this a good ending for P3?

English, Arts and Health and Safety Activity

Discuss safety in snow or ice sports. Draw each of the three characters wearing safety equipment for one sport, e.g. skiing or tobogganing.

SCIENCE

A Penguin Sneeze

Because they swim in salt water, and eat seafood, penguins need to get rid of extra salt in their bodies.

Salt is excreted through their beaks - and a penguin sneezes to remove any salty build-up!

Student Activity

Student activity sheet
(free download/PDF)



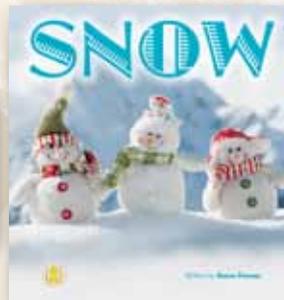
Group Activity

Chart: "Our Penguin Race Day"

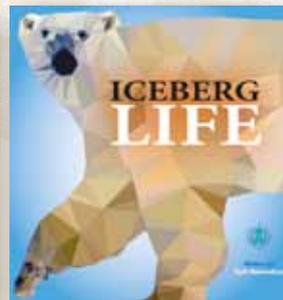
Draw a penguin with a "P" labelled top. The captions must include one word ending in "st", e.g. I came *last* in the race!; I came *first* in the race.; I ran *past* all the penguins!



Check out these other books for projects about **birds** and **cold environments**.



Snow
Level 8: Non-Fiction,
Description



Iceberg Life
Level 9: Non-Fiction,
Report



Birds, Birds, Birds, Birds
Level 10: Non-Fiction,
Description



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