

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Antarctic Animal Adaptations

Lesson Plan for *Antarctica*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students use a series of pictures to explore adaptations that help animals survive the extreme cold of Antarctica.

Things Needed

- *Antarctica* book
- QR code scanner or access to the “Antarctica” web page on the Pop! website: <http://popbooksonline.com/continents/antarctica/>

Before the Activity

Read *Antarctica* out loud to students.

Activity

Antarctica is very cold. For this reason, plants and animals that live there have adapted. They have developed body parts and behaviors to help them survive. Open the book to pages 14 and 15. Read the text on page 15 out loud. Then have students look at the photo on page 14, which shows a leopard seal. Use the following prompt:

- A leopard seal has two layers of fur. It also has a layer of fat known as blubber under its skin. How would these traits help the seal survive? (Answer: They keep the seal warm as it hunts and swims in the freezing water.)

Next, turn back to page 13 and have students look at the animals on this page. Use the following prompts:

- The large top photo shows emperor penguins. Baby emperor penguins have fluffy gray fur. Male emperor penguins have a pouch just above their feet. They use this pouch to hold eggs before the baby penguins hatch. How would this pouch help the penguins? (Answer: It would keep the eggs warm until they hatch.)



- The bottom left photo shows an orca. Like leopard seals, orcas have a thick layer of blubber. Orcas also have sleek bodies and large flippers. How would this body shape help the orca? (Answer: It helps the orca move quickly through the water to catch prey.)
- The bottom middle photo shows an albatross. These bird have long, wide wings. They can glide in the wind, flying for hours without resting or needing to flap their wings. An albatross can also drink salt water. How would these traits help the albatross? (Answer: The bird can fly a long way over the open ocean.)

Scan the QR code at the bottom of page 13, or click on the “Learn More” tab of the “Antarctica” web page on the Pop! website. Read the text on this page out loud to students. Then ask the following questions:

- What animal does this photo show? (Answer: a gentoo penguin)
- What is special about the gentoo penguin? (Answer: It is a fast swimmer.)
- Based on the picture, what features or body parts might help the penguin have this ability? (Possible Answers: It has flippers for swimming; it has a sleek body shape; etc.)

Evaluation

Could students identify how the traits might help each of the animals pictured in the book survive in very cold weather? Could they identify what features might make a gentoo penguin a fast swimmer?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.7).

