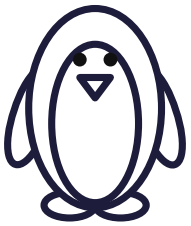
Non-fiction

Level 2 · Year 1–2 · Grade 1–2

Penguins







Penguins are birds, but they cannot fly. Instead, they use their wings as flippers to swim. Penguins are fast, strong swimmers.

Where do penguins live?

Almost all penguins live in the southern half of the world. Some live on the ice in Antarctica. Others live on rocky coasts. You can find them in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and South America.

Big and small

The biggest penguin is the emperor penguin. It can be more than one metre tall. The smallest is the little penguin, which lives in New Zealand and Australia.

Keeping warm

Penguins have lots of thick, oily feathers. They also have a layer of fat under their skin. This keeps them warm in cold water.

Penguins eat fish and other small sea animals.

Questions: Penguins

Name _____ Date _____

1 **What do penguins use their wings for? Tick one.** Find it 1b

☐ to fly ☐ to swim ☐ to dig

2 **Which is the biggest penguin?** Find it 1b

_____

3 **"Others live on rocky coasts." A coast is... Tick one.** Word meaning 1a

☐ the land next to the sea
☐ a big forest
☐ a kind of fish

4 **Tick true or false.** Find it 1b

	True	False
Penguins can fly.	☐	☐
The little penguin lives in New Zealand and Australia.	☐	☐
Penguins have a layer of fat under their skin.	☐	☐

5 **Which heading would help you find out how penguins stay warm in cold water?** Find it 1b

_____

6 **Why do you think penguins need to be good swimmers?** Think it 1d

_____

_____

_____

Answers: Penguins

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

1 **What do penguins use their wings for? Tick one.** Find it 1b

☐ to fly ☑ to swim ☐ to dig

In the text: "they use their wings as flippers to swim"

2 **Which is the biggest penguin?** Find it 1b

the emperor penguin

In the text: "The biggest penguin is the emperor penguin."

3 **"Others live on rocky coasts." A coast is... Tick one.** Word meaning 1a

☑ the land next to the sea

☐ a big forest

☐ a kind of fish

In the text: "Others live on rocky coasts"

4 **Tick true or false.** Find it 1b

	True	False
Penguins can fly.	☐	☑
The little penguin lives in New Zealand and Australia.	☑	☐
Penguins have a layer of fat under their skin.	☑	☐

In the text: "Penguins are birds, but they cannot fly." / "The smallest is the little penguin, which lives in New Zealand and Australia." / "Penguins have lots of thick, oily feathers. They also have a layer of fat under their skin."

5 **Which heading would help you find out how penguins stay warm in cold water?** Find it 1b

Keeping warm

In the text: "Keeping warm"

6 **Why do you think penguins need to be good swimmers?** Think it 1d

Possible answer: They find their food in the sea: they catch fish and other sea animals.

In the text: "Penguins are fast, strong swimmers." ... "Penguins eat fish and other small sea animals."

Facts checked against: Encyclopaedia Britannica: penguin; NZ Department of Conservation: little penguin.