



Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style)

Reading Comprehension Booklet



Name.....

## Useful words

airborne

waterproof

windproof

gland

crustaceans

bill

efficient

# Penguins



Penguins are birds with black and white feathers and a funny waddle. But unlike most birds, penguins are not able to fly.

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## Questions

**1** What kind of animal is a penguin?

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**2** What makes penguins different from most birds?

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Penguins spend as much as three quarters of their time underwater, searching for food in the ocean. When they are in the water, they dive and flap their wings. It looks just like they are flying!

Penguins are shaped like a torpedo. Their body is built for the most efficient swimming with their average speed in the water being about 15 miles per hour.

**3** How do penguins spend most of their time?

Tick **one**.

flying

flapping their wings

searching for food

waddling

**4** About how fast do penguins usually swim?

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The only time penguins are airborne is when they leap out of the water. Penguins will often do this to get a gulp of air before diving back down for fish. Penguins cannot breathe underwater, though they are able to hold their breath for a long time. They also use their ability to leap out of the water to get from the ocean onto land.

**5** What do penguins often do before diving down for fish?

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**6** What are penguins able to hold for a long time?

Tick **one**.

their feathers

their food

their breath

the ocean

To keep warm, penguins, like whales, have a layer of fat under their skin called "blubber". Over the top of this blubber, they are covered with fluffy "down" feathers and over the top of those, they have their outer feathers which overlap to seal in warmth. Penguins rub oil from a gland onto their feathers to help make them waterproof and windproof.

**7** Which other sea creatures have blubber under their skins?

Tick **one**.

starfish

whales

prawns

goldfish

**8** What do penguins do to make themselves waterproof and windproof?

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Penguins eat seafood. Their main diet is fish, though they'll also eat squid, small shrimp-like animals called "krill" and crustaceans.

If you look closely at a penguin's bill you'll notice a hook at the end, perfect for grabbing dinner. They also have backward facing bristles on their tongues that help stop slippery seafood from getting away.

**9** What is the main food eaten by penguins?

Tick **one**.

squid

krill

fish

crustaceans

**10** How do the bristles on penguins tongues help them?

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## Useful words

loyal

trustworthy

deceive

betray

# Penguin's Promise

Penguin, Bear and Fox were great friends. One day Bear and Fox were out playing when a passing traveller asked them to look after his basket of apples while he went to visit his family. In return for the favour, he promised to give each of them one of his lovely apples.



**11** What were Bear and Fox doing when they met the traveller?

Tick one.

hunting

playing

eating

dancing



**12**

Why did the traveller promise to give Bear and Fox an apple?

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Eagerly, Bear and Fox agreed to look after the traveller's apples.

"We must take great care of these apples." said Bear.

"Yes," agreed Fox, "but we should keep it a secret so that the other animals don't try to take them from us."

**13**

Which word in the text tells you that Bear and Fox were happy to look after the traveller's apples?

Tick **one**.

secret

animals

care

eagerly

**14**

Why did Fox want to keep the apples a secret?

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After a while, Penguin came wandering by and, seeing them so happy, asked them why. They told him that they couldn't say because it was a secret. But Penguin asked them to trust him because he was their friend. Bear and Fox thought for a while and then agreed to tell Penguin their secret.

**15** Why did Penguin ask Bear and Fox to trust him?

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Soon, Bear, Fox and Penguin began to feel rather hungry so they decided to hide the apples and go back to their village for a spot of lunch. Unfortunately, when they arrived at the village, Penguin forgot all about his promise and told everyone. When Bear and Fox returned to the place where they had hidden the apples, the animals of the village had already been there and eaten them all!

*Soon, Bear, Fox and Penguin began to feel rather hungry so they decided to hide the apples and go back to their village for a spot of lunch.*

**16** What do the words **a spot** mean in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

a little

a pile

a lot

a heap

**17**

What did Penguin forget when he arrived at the village?

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Eventually, the traveller returned to collect his basket of apples and Bear and Fox explained what had happened. Luckily, the traveller was an understanding man and did not blame Bear and Fox for the loss of his apples. Instead, he asked them if they would mind taking care of his box of oranges while he went to visit his friends. In return for the favour, he promised to give each of them one of his delicious oranges.

**18**

Which of the words below is used to describe the traveller?

Tick one.

nasty

understanding

kind

greedy

Bear and Fox agreed to look after the traveller's oranges but when Penguin came along, exactly the same thing happened! Penguin did not keep the secret and again, all the oranges were eaten by the animals of the village.



Angered by his betrayal, Bear and Fox decided to teach Penguin a lesson! The next day, they told Penguin that they had found a lake so full of fish that no effort was needed to catch them. Again, Penguin promised not to tell anyone of the secret but, again, he told everyone in the village.

*Angered by his betrayal, Bear and Fox decided to teach Penguin a lesson!*

**19** What do you think the word **betrayal** means in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

to run away

to be helpful

to break a promise

to be lazy

**20** Why did Bear and Fox decide to teach Penguin a lesson?

The next day, Penguin came by feeling very sorry for himself. After telling all the animals about the lake full of fish, everyone, including the wolves, had gone there. But, not finding anything, they felt deceived, and had told Penguin that he must go and find somewhere else to live.

**21**

Why did the animals feel that they had been deceived?

Tick **one**.

They thought that Penguin had lied to them.

They thought that Penguin was sneaky.

They knew that Penguin had broken his promise.

They thought that Penguin had eaten all the fish.

Penguin learned that keeping people's trust is very important. He knew that to win back the trust of his friends, he would have to earn it by proving that he could be loyal and always keep his promises.

Happily, this is exactly what Penguin did and soon his friends forgave him.

Now, from that day to this, Penguin has remained the most loyal and trustworthy friend that anyone could wish to have.

The End