

Library Lesson Plan: Penguin Writing Work

Grades 3-5

Background for teacher: Review “The Writing Revolution” chapter on Fragments and Sentences, Scrambled sentences, Developing Questions, and Because-But-So.

1. Read the following paragraph aloud while asking students to read along.

Emperor penguins, flightless birds who live their entire lives on the ice in the Antarctic, have very unusual ways of breeding and caring for their young! They breed in the winter. After a courtship of several weeks, a female emperor penguin lays one single egg then leaves it for the penguin father. Each penguin’s father balances it on his feet and covers it with his brood pouch, a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy. There the males stand, for about 65 days, through icy temperatures, cruel winds, and blinding storms. Finally, after about two months, the females return from the sea, bringing food they regurgitate, or bring up, to feed the now hatched chicks. The males eagerly leave for their own fishing session at sea, and the mothers take over care of the chicks for a while.

2. Define any terms as you read a second time – breeding, brood pouch, cruel, regurgitate, hatched.
3. Show short clips of “March of the Penguins” or other nature videos that show emperor penguins. This BBC Earth clip (about 4 minutes) gives good supplemental information to the paragraph: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfstYSUscBc>

NOTE: You can incorporate the writing and sentence activities in #4-8 singly or work them all together over several days.

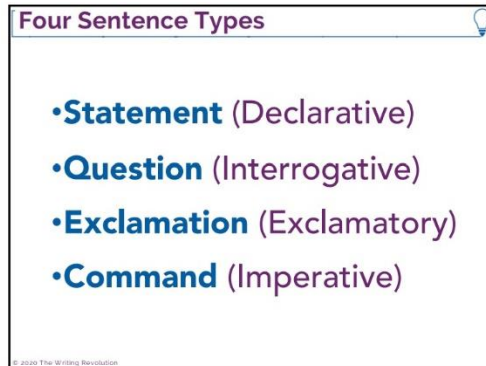
4. **Fragments and sentences.** If you have not yet introduced your class to fragments and sentences, do so now. See “The Writing Revolution” book or web site for guidance. “Sentences are groups of words that have both a subject – a Who or a What – and a verb or an action. Fragments are parts of sentences that usually don’t have either a subject (who or what) or an action.”

What are sentences and what are fragments? Use “Emperor Penguins: Fragments and Sentences” page, below, either with individual students, as a class, or in pairs. (Possible responses are included.)

5. **Scrambled sentences.** This helps students start to work on the parts of sentences. Use “Emperor Penguins: Scrambled Sentences” page, below, to ask students to put groups

of words into cohesive sentences. (Correct responses are included.) *NOTE: This is a fun activity to use index cards for students to manipulate and put the words in order.

6. **Sentence types.** If you have not yet introduced students to sentence types, do so now. See “The Writing Revolution” book or web site for more guidance. Use “Emperor Penguins: Sentence Types” page, below, to identify and/or write different sentence types. (Possible responses are included.)



7. **Because-But-So.** To introduce using the conjunctions “because”, “but”, and “so”, see “The Writing Revolution” book or web site for guidance.



8. **Developing questions.** To introduce developing questions, see “The Writing Revolution” book or web site for guidance. Use the “Emperor Penguins: Developing Questions” page, below, to help students identify the question words that each underlined portion answers. (Answers are included.)

Question Words

Who ?
What ?
When ?
Where ?
Why ?
How ?

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Emperor Penguins: Fragments and Sentences

Put “S” by the groups of words that are sentences and “F” by the groups of words that are fragments. Correct the fragments so they are sentences. Add punctuation and capitalization to make all sentences correct.

1. the penguin fathers stand for 65 days
2. icy temperatures and cruel winds
3. balances the egg on his feet
4. emperor penguins care for their young in unusual ways
5. female emperor penguins

Answers and possible responses:

1. the penguin fathers stand for 65 days – S – The penguin fathers stand for 65 days.
2. icy temperatures and cruel winds – F – Penguin fathers must stand in icy temperatures and cruel winds.

3. balances the egg on his feet – F – The penguin father balances the egg on his feet.

4. emperor penguins care for their young in unusual ways – S – Emperor penguins care for their young in unusual ways.

5. female emperor penguins – F – Female emperor penguins come back from the sea ready to feed their young.

Emperor Penguins: Scrambled Sentences

Directions: Unscramble the following groups of words into sentences. Add correct punctuation and capitalization. The first word of each sentence is in **bold** and underlined.

1. glad parents I my not emperor are penguins am
2. mother regurgitate like **My** not into emperor an
would to mouth my
3. very babies have time Winter a is cold to
4. warm penguin's **The** is pouch emperor and cozy
brood
5. hatching Penguin long a before wait time must
babies

Answers:

1. I am glad my parents are not emperor penguins.
2. My mother would not like to regurgitate food into my mouth like an emperor penguin.
3. Winter is a very cold time to have babies.
4. The emperor penguin's brood pouch is cozy and warm.
5. Penguin babies must wait a long time before hatching.

Emperor Penguins: Sentence Types

Four Sentence Types

- **Statement** (Declarative)
- **Question** (Interrogative)
- **Exclamation** (Exclamatory)
- **Command** (Imperative)

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Directions: Based on what you know about emperor penguins, identify the kinds of sentences and then write a sentence for each sentence type.

Part One: Identify each sentence as Statement, Question, Exclamation, or Command.

_____ 1. It must be difficult to be an emperor penguin father!

_____ 2. Emperor penguins spend a long time standing out in very cold and dangerous temperatures.

_____ 3. Read on to learn more about why emperor penguins are so admired by scientists.

_____ 4. How do baby emperor penguins stay warm and fed during the long time they are with their fathers?

Part Two: Write one sentence of each sentence type about emperor penguins.

1. Statement/brood pouch:
2. Question/mothers regurgitating:
3. Exclamation/Antarctic winter:

Answers:

Part One

1. Exclamation
2. Statement
3. Command
4. Question

Part Two – *Possible responses (Answers will vary)*

1. Baby penguins are protected by the father's brood pouch, which keeps them warm and safe.
2. Why do mother penguins regurgitate their food into the mouths of their babies?
3. The Antarctic in winter is a very cold place for emperor penguins to live!

Emperor Penguins: Because, But, So

because *tells why*

but *shows change of direction*

so *indicates cause and effect*

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Directions: Complete each sentence stem using “because”, “but”, or “so.”

1. Father emperor penguins balance their baby penguin eggs on their feet **because** _____.
2. Father emperor penguins balance their baby penguin eggs on their feet **but** _____.
3. Father emperor penguins balance their baby penguin eggs on their feet **so** _____.

Possible responses (answers will vary):

1. Father emperor penguins balance their baby penguin eggs on their feet because they are protecting the eggs from the cold.
2. Father emperor penguins balance their baby penguin eggs on their feet but they will leave the eggs when the mother penguins return from fishing.
3. Father emperor penguins balance their baby penguin eggs on their feet so the babies will survive.

Emperor Penguins: Developing Questions

Emperor penguins, flightless birds who live their entire lives on the ice in the Antarctic, have very unusual ways of breeding and caring for their young! They breed in the winter. After a courtship of several weeks, a female emperor penguin lays one single egg then leaves it for the penguin father. Each penguin's father balances it on his feet and covers it with his brood pouch, a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy. There the males stand, for about 65 days, through icy temperatures, cruel winds, and blinding storms. Finally, after about two months, the females return from the sea, bringing food they regurgitate, or bring up, to feed the now hatched chicks. The males eagerly leave for their own fishing session at sea, and the mothers take over care of the chicks for a while.

What is the question that each underlined part answers:
When? Where? or Why?

_____ ? : in the Antarctic

_____ ? : in the winter

_____ ? : After a courtship of several weeks

_____ ? : after about two months

_____ ? : to feed the now hatched chicks

_____ ? : at sea

Answers:

Where ? : in the Antarctic

When? : in the winter

When? : After a courtship of several weeks

When? : after about two months

Why? : to feed the now hatched chicks

Where? : at sea