

# ANTARCTIC ANTICS

## ANTARCTIC ANTICS

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Themes: Families, Penguins, Poetry

Grade Level: K - 4

Running Time: 13 minutes

## SUMMARY

*Antarctic Antics* is a delightful collection of poems about the Antarctic, penguins, and life under the sea. Children will get a first-hand look at the world of penguins, their behaviors and antics, and be amused at how child-like these fascinating creatures really are.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will investigate the life cycle and behaviors of penguins.
- Children will explore life in the Antarctic.
- Children will learn about life under the sea.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have children share what they know about penguins, including their behaviors and environment. Ask:

- What do penguins look like?
- How do they move?
- What is the climate like where they live?
- What do penguins eat? Where do they find their food?

Explain to children that you are going to share a series of poems that explore the world of penguins and their environment. Before sharing the poems,

have children stand up and move like perky penguins around the room!

After hearing the poems, encourage children to discuss how the lives of penguins are similar to, and different from, the ideas about these creatures that they had in their minds previous to hearing the poems.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Bring in a plastic egg. Remind children that penguins are hatched from eggs. Ask: What other animals can you think of that are hatched from eggs? See how many animals children can identify. Later, have children draw and cut out pictures of these animals. Make sure children's drawings are small enough to fit into the plastic egg. Let children take turns placing their pictures in the egg and describing their animal to others in the group. See if the others can identify the animals from the descriptions.

Talk about the environment in the Antarctic. Compare and contrast it to our own environment. Ask children: What would you enjoy about living in this climate? What kinds of games might you play? What would your home be like? What would you wear outdoors? Share pictures and photographs of this very special place with children.

Encourage children to compare the behaviors of penguins, including their interactions with their parents, to their own. Ask: What things do pen-

guins do with their mothers that you might have done with your own mother? What do they do with their fathers that you have done? Later, visit a museum or library exhibit highlighting Antarctica and the world of penguins. Encourage children to note the delightful ways the penguins interact with the adult penguins, as well as one another, as you investigate their world.

Have children recall the different kinds of sea life the penguins encountered in the poems. Then supply a large sheet of kraft paper and crayons or markers. Tape the paper to the wall at children's eye level. Allow children to create an undersea mural. Help children label the different sea creatures they illustrate. Display the mural in a place where children, as well as classroom visitors, can enjoy it.

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