

# Penguin Inquiry

As I was getting ready to start my penguin unit with my Kindergarten class, I decided that I wanted to do something different to start it off. In the past, I had started with a KWL, but we had just finished doing one. I decided to use a pre-assessment technique that I had recently read about. I made a piece of paper with 4 squares on it. I labeled the squares with Where do penguins live? How do penguins move? What do penguins need? and I wonder . . . We started out the lesson by having a discussion together about penguins. I told them that throughout the unit, we would be using our imaginations to see if we thought penguins would be able to live in Melfort. I reminded them that we hadn't found out anything about penguins yet, so I just wanted to see what they already knew about them. I handed out the sheets and we worked through the squares very slowly. I would read the words and the kids would all point to the right spot. Then they would "write words" to tell me what they thought the answer was. After each box, they would bring their paper up to me and dictate the text. It went really smoothly! When everyone was done, I invited them to write any other things that they knew about penguins on the back. Then I had them each draw a picture of what they thought a penguin looked like.

I was really impressed with their answers! I'm going to use the information in a bulletin board display. The display will be divided into three sections, before, during and after. In the before spot, I will put some of their answers and pictures of their penguins. For during, I'm going to take photos of the different activities that we do to learn about penguins. In the after spot, I will put up the info they learned, and have them draw new pictures of penguins.

Here are some of the responses that I got from my Kindergarten students:

**Where do penguins live?**

In the North Pole.

Kind of near Santa.

In the snow.

**What do penguins need?**

They need fish.

They need to be cold.

A family.

**How do penguins move?**

They waddle.

With their bones.

Moving their flippers.

**I wonder. . .**

If penguins are mammals.

If penguins like people.

If they kiss.

# Penguin Inquiry

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where do penguins live?

What do penguins need?

How do penguins move?

I wonder . . .