

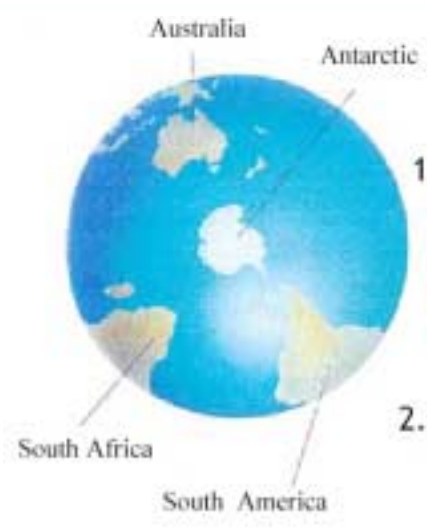
## Understanding a text about penguins

Step	Description	What the children do
1	Getting a grasp of the prior knowledge. The teacher asks the class to tell her, in German, what they know about penguins.	The children recall and tell their knowledge about a nature topic
2	The teacher notes down a few English keywords on the blackboard.	
3	The teacher explains that today the class will do an exciting task: they are supposed to do some detective work and find out what certain sentences about penguins mean. They work in groups of three. The illustrated text (Attachement) is put on the OHP.	In groups, the learners make hypotheses about the meaning of a written text, broken up into sentences.
4	The teacher listens to the hypotheses the children present and praises each group. Afterwards the "real" translation is read. There should be no mention of the term competition.	

### Note on the penguin activity

This activity was used as one of the assessment tests in a pilot project in Saxony in 2002 and in Switzerland in 2003. In both cases the learners were in grade 4.

The evaluation in Saxony was conducted by Angelika Kubanek-German (report: 2003), the evaluation in Switzerland by Ursula Bader and Ursula Schär (report: 2003). In both cases, the test was only one of a series of evaluation instruments. In Switzerland it was only administered outside the official tests because of the amount of time it takes to analyse. It was given as an individual written task to show how children addressed this type of task which they had never done before, and to find out which elements of the text the learners would translate correctly, which also allowed to assess the guessing strategies they used. The penguin topic was chosen after careful consideration. It had to be a topic that was not connected to a



Name: ..... Class: .....

1. The Antarctic:

Penguins are the most famous inhabitants.  
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2. They slide across the snow with the help of their feet and wings.  
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3. Adeli penguins often travel more than 100 kilometres before they reach the sea.  
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4. Penguins cannot fly but they are excellent swimmers.  
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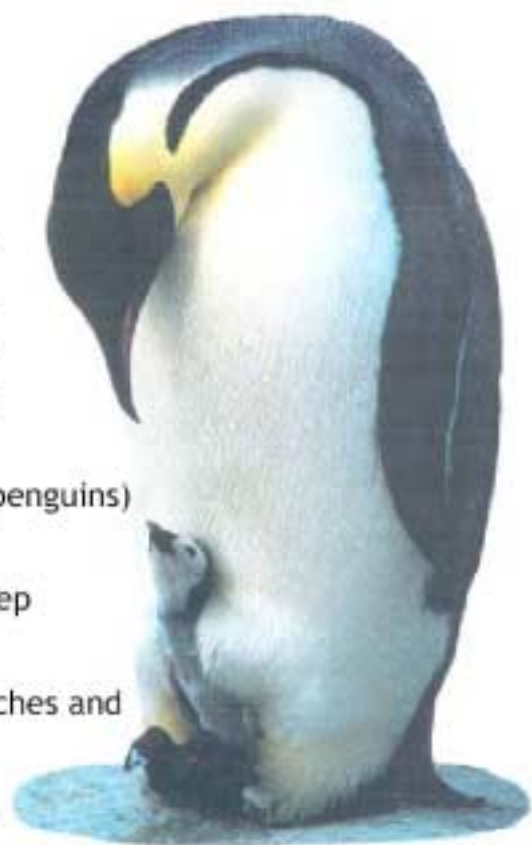
5. Adeli penguins can swim very fast - up to 32 kilometres per hour.  
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6. Every 15 seconds the penguins jump out of the water and take a deep breath of fresh air.  
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7. The largest birds in the Antarctic are the Emperor penguins. Sometimes they are 1.2 metres tall.

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8. The female Emperor penguins (mother penguins) lay an egg at the beginning of winter. The male penguins (father penguins) keep the egg on their feet. After 64 cold and dark days the egg hatches and out comes a baby penguin.

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9. The baby penguins sit on the feet of their parents and stay nice and warm.

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