

TOPICAL TidBITS



January/February 2012

Volume 1 Issue 1

PENGUINS

Welcome to the very first issue of *Topical Tidbits*. Inside, you will find many activities that will introduce you to the world of penguins and the fun of collecting penguins on stamps from around the world.

Each issue of *Topical Tidbits* will feature a blank album page for you to print out on heavy paper (see page 9). These can be put in a three-ring binder and added to over time. Do not glue your stamps, though. Check your local hobby store for stamp hinges. On page 10 you will find images of penguin stamps. These can be used for craft projects or put on the album page until you get real penguin stamps.

If you would like to learn more about collecting penguin stamps, the "Penguins on Stamps Study Unit" is a group you might like to join. They meet every year during the American Topical Association's National Topical Stamp Show. Youth memberships are welcomed. Email jcstout61@bellsouth.net for more information or contact the ATA. You can also visit their website at www.penguinstamps.org.

For a free packet of stamps, send a self-addressed stamped envelope by February 29th, 2012, to:


MaryAnn Bowman
Topical Tidbits-- Penguins
P.O. Box 1451
Waukesha, WI 53187

We hope you have fun learning about penguins and doing all the activities. Send photos of your penguin projects to the address above. You might see yourself in a future issue. Enjoy!!!!




Penguin Identifier

EMPEROR PENGUINS




Emperor penguins are the largest penguin species. They are nearly 4 feet tall and weigh up to 90 pounds. They are easily identified by their size and the orange "glow" on their cheeks. Emperor penguins live, year round, in the Antarctic. Temperatures can fall as low as -140°F. Most penguin species lay two eggs at a time, but due to the difficulty of raising chicks in such a harsh climate, the Emperor penguin only lays one egg.

CHINSTRAP PENGUINS




Chinstrap penguins get their name from the small black band that runs under their chin. They are about 2 feet tall and weigh about 10 pounds. They feed on krill and fish. They often live on large icebergs on the open ocean in the Antarctic region.

ADELIE PENGUINS




Adelie penguins are the smallest of the Antarctic penguins. One way to distinguish them from the other penguins is by their all black head and the white ring around their eye. Their diet is mainly fish. Adelies build their nests of stones on the rocky beaches of Antarctica, jealously guarding and often fighting over the best rocks.

AFRICAN PENGUINS




African penguins have a black upside down U-shape on their neck with black speckles on their chest. They are about 2 feet tall and weigh between 7 and 11 pounds. African penguins live and breed on the coast of South Africa. They are also known as the Blackfoot penguin.

GALAPAGOS PENGUINS




Penguins do not live in the wild in any location in the Northern Hemisphere. The northern most colony of penguins are located in the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos Penguins can survive close to the equator because the Humboldt Current brings cold waters to the islands from the Antarctic.

GENTOO PENGUINS




Gentoo penguins live on many of the islands of the Antarctic region but the main colony is on the Falklands. They are about 3 feet tall and weigh about 13 pounds. Their diet consists of krill and some small fish. Gentoo penguins are easily identifiable by the wide white stripe over the top of their head. It runs from one eye to the other.

KING PENGUINS



The King penguin is the second largest penguin and looks a little like the Emperor penguin. They are about 3 feet tall and weigh up to 35 pounds. King penguins have orange spots near their ears and on the neck. King penguins mainly eat fish and some squid and crustaceans. They are found on many sub-Antarctic islands.

MACARONI PENGUINS



"Macaroni" used to be a hairstyle in England. (Did you ever wonder why Yankee Doodle called the feather in his cap, "Macaroni"?) The Macaroni penguins were so named because the yellow and black feathers sticking out of the side of their heads looked like the English hairstyle.

Penguin Identifier (continued)



MAGELLANIC PENGUINS

Magellanic penguins were named after the explorer Ferdinand Magellan who first saw them in 1519 on his first voyage around the tip of South America. Magellanic penguins are about 2 feet tall and weigh 9 pounds. They are the largest of the warm weather penguins. They live on the coast of the Argentina, Chile and the Falkland Islands.



ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS

Similar to the Macaroni penguins, the Rockhopper penguins have decorative feather tufts on their heads - theirs are yellow in color. Their most unusual trait is their ability to hop from rock to rock to their nesting places. They keep both feet together when hopping. Using this method, they are able to hop up to four or five feet.



YELLOW-EYED PENGUINS

The yellow-eyed penguins have a band of yellow feathers going from the bill, circling the eyes and up around the head. They live on the coast of New Zealand. They are the rarest of all penguins due to the deforestation of the New Zealand coastline and the introduction of new predatory species to the island. There are an estimated 1,500 breeding pairs of yellow-eyed penguins.



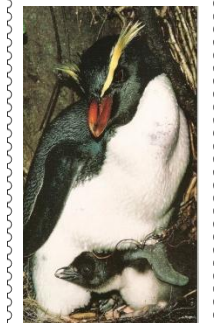
HUMBOLDT PENGUINS

The Humboldt penguin is found in South America and are medium in size. They have a black head with a white border that runs from behind the eye, around the black ear-coverts and chin, and joins at the throat. They have blackish-grey upperparts and whitish under parts, with a black breast-band that extends down the flanks to the thigh. Their bill has a fleshy-pink base.



LITTLE BLUE PENGUINS

The Little Blue Penguin is the smallest species of penguin. The penguin, which usually grows to between 30 and 33 cm tall (12 to 13 inches), is found on the coastlines of southern Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, they are also referred to as Fairy Penguins because of their tiny size. In New Zealand, they are also called Little Blue Penguins, or just Blue Penguins, owing to their slate-blue plumage.

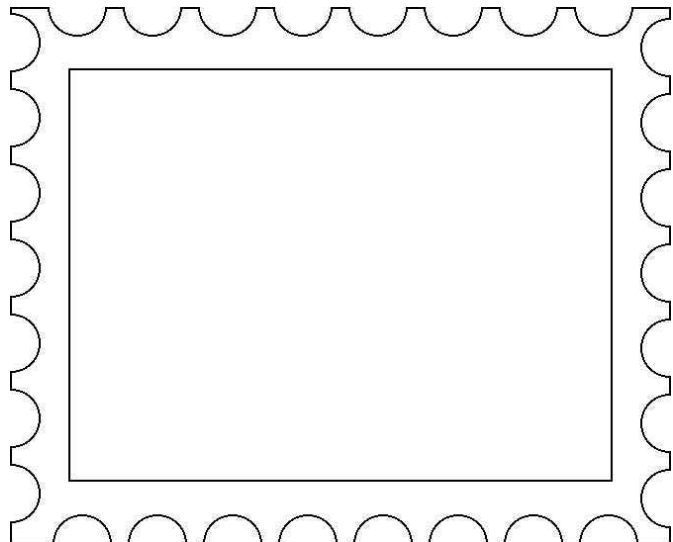


FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN

The medium-sized Fiordland Crested Penguin is from New Zealand. It has dark, bluish-grey upperparts with a darker head, and white under parts. It has a broad, yellow eyebrow-stripe which extends over the eye and drops down the neck. Most birds have 3-6 whitish stripes on their face.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PENGUIN STAMP!

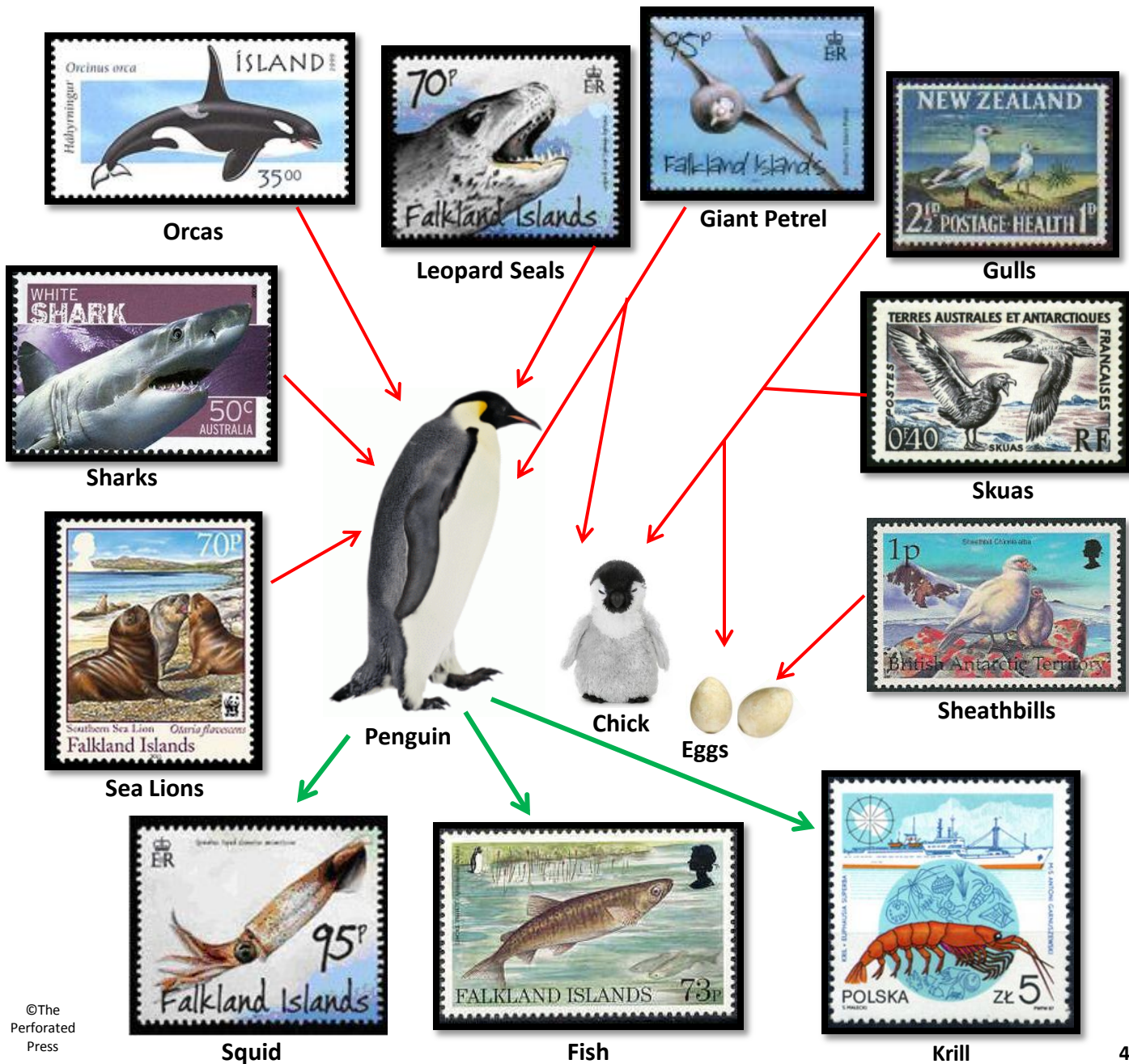
Using the template at the right, design your own penguin stamp. Be sure to include the country name and the denomination (price) of the stamp.



Penguin Food Chain

Like all wild animals, penguins must find their own food. They hunt underwater for small shrimp-like animals called krill, squid, and many kinds of fish.

Other animals like to eat penguins. In the water, penguins must watch out for leopard seals, orcas, sea lions, and sharks. On land, several kinds of birds may try to steal penguin eggs or attack the chicks. People are also considered a predator to penguins. Now all penguins are protected by law.



Where Do Penguins Live?

Color in red the countries where penguins live.



Galapagos Penguin-
Galapagos Islands



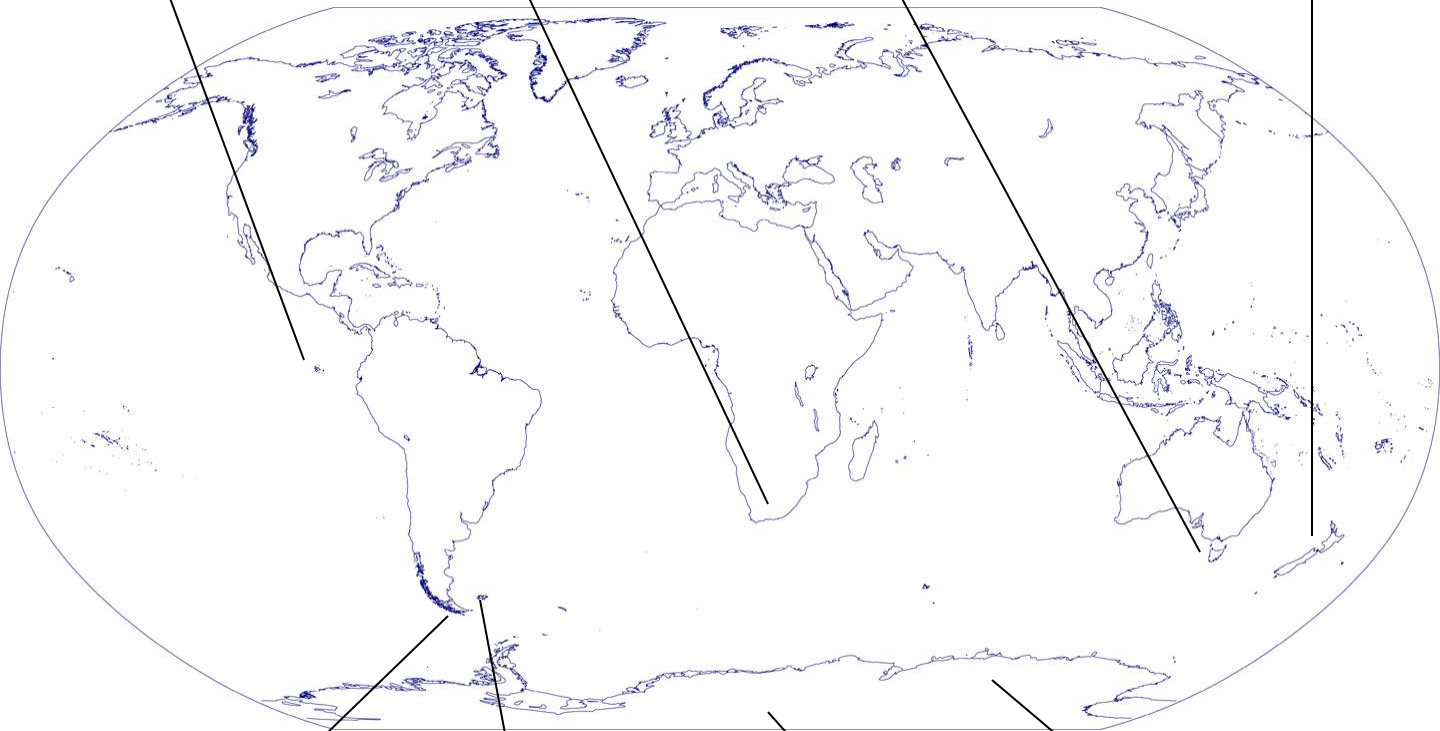
Black-footed Penguin-
Southern Africa



Little Blue Penguin-
Tasmania



Fiordland Crested Penguin-
New Zealand



Rockhopper Penguin-
Tierra del Fuego



King Penguin-
Falkland Islands



Emperor Penguin-
Antarctica



Adelle Penguin-
Antarctica

Penguin Poems



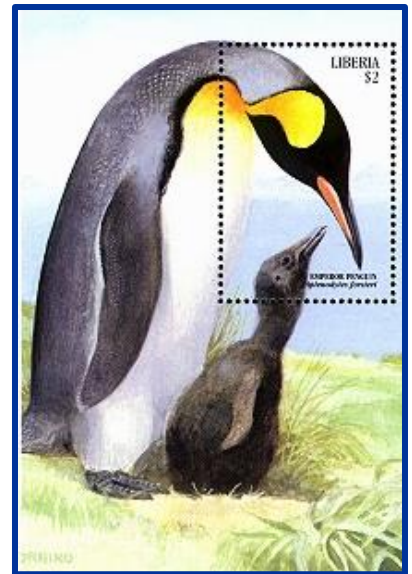
Emperor Penguins

by Barry Louis Polisar

Huddled close together
Against the snow and sleet,
Penguins at the pole
Pool their body heat.

They gather in a circle,
Steadfast, disciplined,
Turning toward the center,
Fighting off the wind.

Sharing warmth and comfort
On cold and icy floes,
Balancing their future
Gently, on their toes.



In Praise of Penguins

by Robin Bernard

These funny birds in fancy clothes
may waddle in the snow,
but when they reach the icy sea
Just watch how fast they go!
Their song sounds like a donkey's bray,
they cannot soar or fly,
yet penguins manage very well,
and let me tell you why . . .
Their feathers keep out water,
their blubber keeps out cold,
their wings make perfect paddles
because they do not fold!
Their tails are good for steering,
they brake with both their feet -

So tell me now,
from all you've heard . . .
Aren't penguins NEAT?

Consider the Penguin

by Lucy W. Rhu

Consider the penguin.
He's smart as can be -
Dressed in his dinner clothes
Permanently.

You never can tell
When you see him about,
If he's just coming in
Or just going out!

Penguin Parade

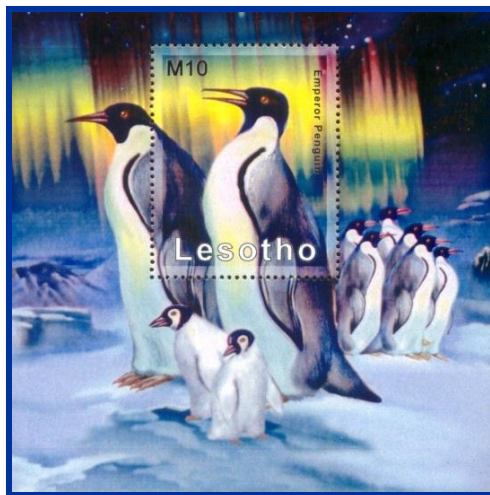
Author Unknown

Waddle, waddle, waddle
From side to side
Penguins go a-walking
Slip, slip, slide, slide.
With a funny jump
The penguins dash
Down to the water
Splash! Splash! Splash! Splash!
Waddle from the water
With a rock n' roll
Penguins go parading
On a wintry stroll.

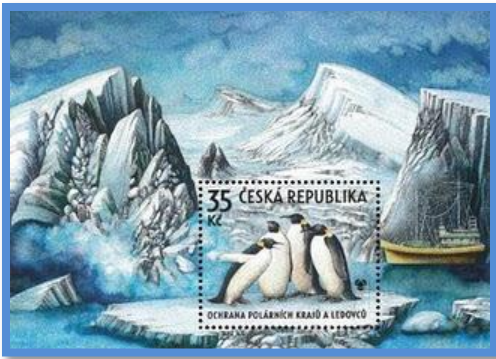
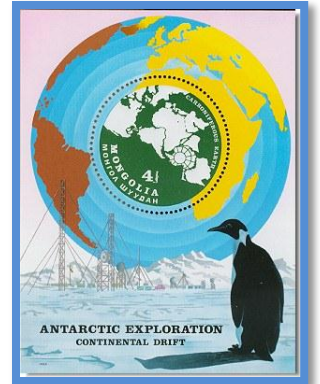
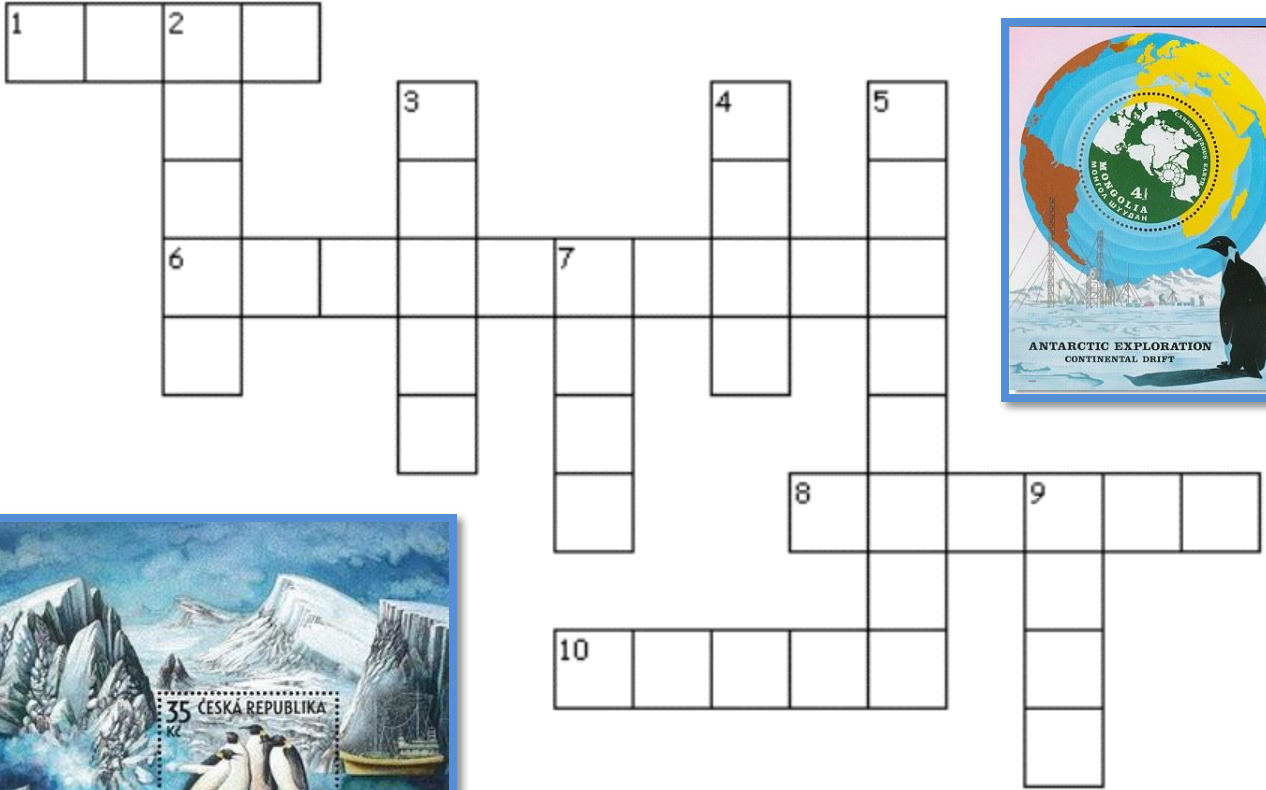
Percy Penguin

by Catherine Y. Hongey

Percy Penguin looks so proper,
In his long black tails,
Stiff white shirt, and neatly groomed,
Correct in all details.
He's so important, chest way out,
As he pitter patters by,
But here is something very funny --
He forgot his TIE!



Penguin Crossword Puzzle



- Across**
1. They love to play in this.
 6. The cold continent where penguins live.
 8. _____ feet help penguins to swim fast.
 10. They have these but cannot fly.

- Down**
2. Penguins swim in the _____.
 3. Penguins are _____ and white.
 4. Penguins love to do this.
 5. Keeps their bodies warm.
 7. They like this weather.
 9. Part of body used to catch fish.



Penguin Activities

JOKES

Q: What do penguins order for lunch?
A: Icebergers!

Q: What do penguins sing on a birthday?
A: Freeze a jolly good fellow.

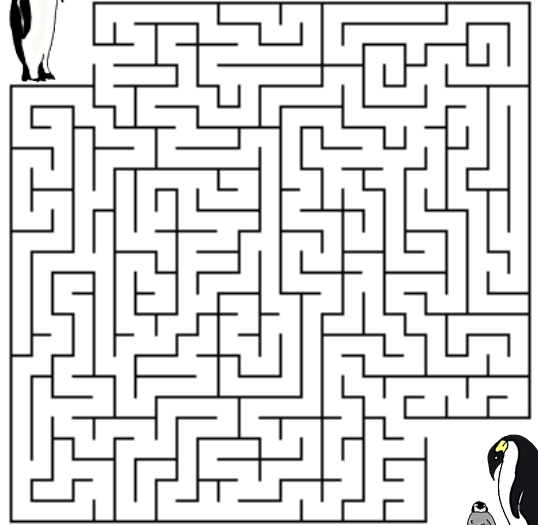
Q: Why don't you see penguins in Britain?
A: Because they're afraid of Wales.

Q: What's black and white and goes round and round?
A: A penguin in a revolving door.

Q: What's the name of a penguin's favorite aunt?
A: Aunt-Artica

Q: What's black, white & red all over?
A: A penguin with a sunburn.

Help the mama penguin get to the daddy and baby.



1 - blue
2 - black
3 - grey
4 - orange

Penguin Snacks

From Taste of Home Magazine



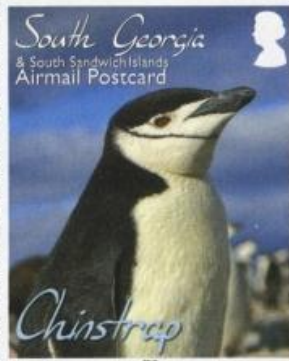
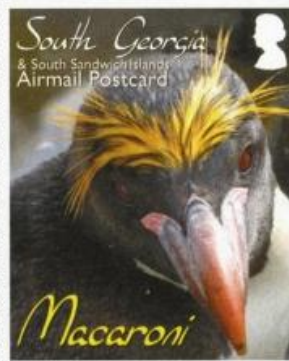
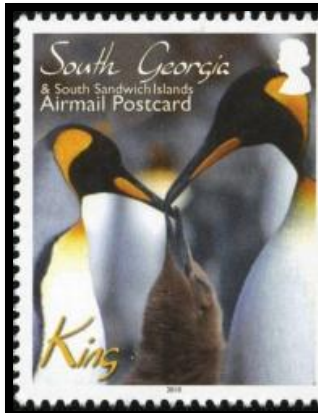
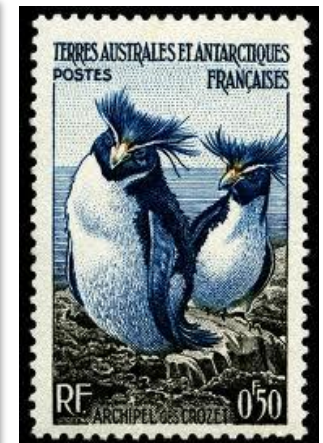
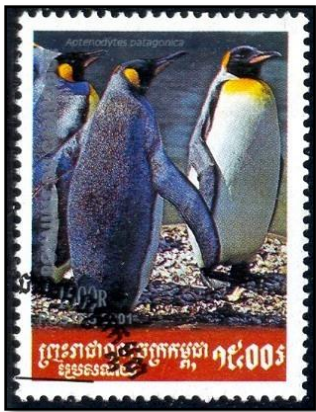
For the penguin heads, attach one olive to the top of each egg with a toothpick. For beaks, cut six carrots $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the pointed end; attach the flat side of a pointed piece to the center of each head with half a toothpick.

For the feet, make a lengthwise cut through the remaining carrots; place flat side down in pairs (trim carrots if necessary). Place a toothpick in each carrot; press an egg on top of each pair. For flippers, cut the remaining olives lengthwise into quarters; attach one olive quarter to each side of eggs with half a toothpick. Cover; refrigerate until serving. **Yield:** 6 penguins.

Penguins



Penguin Stamps for Your Projects



Plan a Penguin Party!

Tired of the gloomy, winter weather?

Throw a penguin party to banish the blues! With just a little effort, you can have a great get-together and share all your penguin knowledge with your friends. Be sure to print copies of *Topical Tidbits* for them to take home.

1. Print out the invitations on page 13 and send them to your friends. Zazzle.com sells many different penguin stamps that would be fun to use on the envelopes! (Ask an adult to help you order these.)



2. Make party favors. Use the bookmark templates (pg. 14) to create cute favors for your friends. Using card stock will make the bookmarks sturdier. Then, you can use the stamp images (pg. 10) to decorate them.



3. Make napkin rings and decorate the table. Use the stamp images on page 10 to make napkin rings. Cut out stamps and glue them to colored paper. Then cut them out. Next, cut strips of paper and tape them around a rolled up napkin. Last of all, glue or tape the stamp on top of the strip. Stuffed penguins would make a cute centerpiece. Blue and white dishes or black and white dishes complete the look.



©The Perforated Press

4. Make some penguin treats. The penguin snack eggs mentioned on page 8 would be easy to make. How about cupcakes? Cut out more of the stamp images (pg. 10), glue them on a toothpick, and then use them to decorate the cupcakes.



Play penguin games. Two can be found on page 12.



Penguin Party Games

WADDLE CHAIRS:

What You'll Need:

Several chairs (one for each guest)
A spindle of string
Children's music

Preparation:

Set the chairs in a circle, seats facing outward.
Cut one 2'-3' length of string for each guest.
Set up a CD or tape player in the playing area.

At the Party:

Explain the rules of musical chairs to your guests, but tell them that there's a twist: they will have to waddle around the chairs while the music is playing!

Have each player tie a length of string around his legs at the knees.

Help your guests with this, if needed.

The string should be snug enough to stay on, but not too tight.

The players will now have to waddle when they walk.

To begin, start the music. The players must waddle around the circle of chairs while the music is playing.

Stop the music randomly. When the music stops, the players must try to find a seat.

After each round, take away a chair before you restart the music.

The player who doesn't get a chair is out for the rest of that round.

Keep playing and removing chairs until there are only two players and one chair left.

The last player to get a seat wins!

ICE CUBE SHUFFLE:

What You'll Need: A few ice cubes

Masking tape

Preparation:

Use masking tape to mark a start line and a goal line about 10 feet apart and about 10 to 15 feet wide.

At the Party:

Divide players into at least two teams. You may wish to have three or more teams if there are a large number of players.

Line the teams up behind the start line.

Place an ice cube on the start line in front of each team.

When you say "Go," the first player from each team gets on his hands and knees and uses only his nose to push the ice cube towards the goal line.

Once a player reaches the goal line, he turns around and pushes the ice cube back towards the start line (still using his nose).

When the ice cube makes it back to the start line, the next player in line repeats the process.

The first team to get all its players to the goal line and back wins!



YOU'RE INVITED

TO A

PENGUIN PARTY

DATE:

TIME:

PLACE:

GIVEN BY:

RSVP:

YOU'RE INVITED

TO A

PENGUIN PARTY

DATE:

TIME:

PLACE:

GIVEN BY:

RSVP:

There is room at the bottom of the invitation to glue a penguin stamp image from page 10.

Bookmarks

Glue stamp images from page 10 to decorate these bookmarks. Then, cut them out, punch a hole at the top, and tie a ribbon through the hole. These would make cute favors for your penguin party!



**Chill
Out With
a
Good Book**



**It's
Fun to
"Chill"
With a
Good
Book**



**Books
Are
Cool!**