

Amazing Penguins

The Emperor penguin is a special kind of bird. It has wings and feathers, but it can't fly. Emperor penguins live in a place called Antarctica. This **area** of land is at the South Pole. It is one of the coldest places on Earth. The penguins don't live in dens or grassy areas. They live on blocks of ice that are miles long. Antarctica is so cold that the penguins need special ways of keeping their eggs from freezing.

A female penguin lays one egg at a time. After she lays the egg, the male penguin rolls the egg onto his feet. Then he tucks the egg under a piece of skin **near** his feet. This place close to his feet is called a brood pouch. The egg will stay warm and safe in the brood pouch for more than sixty days, which is two months.

While the male penguins are keeping the eggs warm, they stay very close together. They turn their bodies so that the freezing cold wind cannot get near the eggs. They also take turns standing in the center of the group to get warm. The male penguins spend a lot of time sleeping so they can save energy. They will not be able to go find food while they are taking care of the eggs.

As the male penguins keep the eggs safe and warm, the female penguins walk very **far** to find food. They walk on the ice and slide on their bellies for many miles. Finally, the female penguins get to the ocean water at the edge of the ice. There, they dive to find fish and other sea animals. Penguins are one of the **deepest** diving sea birds. They can dive down very far to find food. The female penguins eat as much as they can to build up lots of fat on their bodies. They have a long, cold trip home.

Finally, the females come back from the sea. By this time, the eggs are hatching. The females call out to find their male mates and their new baby chicks. When the male and female find each other, the male gives the baby chick to the female. The female quickly tucks the chick into her brood pouch.

Now it is the male's turn to go to the sea to find food. He is very hungry. He has been taking care of the egg for two months!

COMPREHENSION What special ways do penguins keep their eggs warm and safe? What words help you understand how far penguins must travel to find food?



A New Home for Marvin Mouse

Marvin Mouse needed a new place to **live**. A cat had begun sniffing around near Marvin's home. The cat made Marvin very nervous. Marvin needed to move to a place where he could feel safe.

So Marvin started to look around for a new home. He found a window box attached to a house. It had tall flowers for shade from the sun. It had soft dirt where Marvin could dig a hole. Marvin thought the window box would make a perfectly nice home.

The next day, though, a girl opened the window. She was holding a watering can. She poured water onto the flowers in the window box. Marvin's hole filled up with water! Marvin had to jump down from the window box. After **landing** on the ground, he started looking for another home.

Marvin wandered into the house next door. There, he found a clothes dryer. The big, round machine had warm, soft clothes inside. Marvin made himself a cozy bed out of socks and shirts. The dryer seemed like a nice home.

The next day, though, a man came. He pressed a button on the dryer. Suddenly Marvin's home began to spin. Marvin got very dizzy. When the machine finally stopped, Marvin rushed out.

Marvin was tired of looking for a new home. None of the places he found had worked out. Would he ever find a good place to live?

Marvin began **climbing** up a rock wall. At the top, he found an opening between two rocks. He crawled inside and fell asleep.

When Marvin woke up, he looked around. Could this rock wall be his new home? There was plenty of food to **eat** nearby. He could sleep in peace between the rocks. Marvin Mouse was happy. He had found his new home.

COMPREHENSION What words tell about Marvin's actions? Is a rock wall a good home for a mouse? Why or why not?

