

PENGUIN DETECTIVES

This activity allows children to investigate animal 'families', with a particular focus on penguins.

We look at how we might classify different animal groups, then use classification keys to identify different penguin species.

Finally we learn more about penguins in their natural environments.



KS2



Science



40 Minutes

OVERVIEW & CURRICULUM LINKS

This activity allows children to investigate animal families, with a particular focus on penguins. The session links with Living things and their habitats, identifying and classifying animals and considers the human impact on animals in their habitats.

OBJECTIVES

For the pupils to:

- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name marine animals
- Give reasons for classifying animals based on specific characteristics
- Recognise that environments can change, which can sometimes pose a danger to living things

LEARNING SESSION CONTENT

INPUT

Penguin Detective Agency

Here at the Penguin Detective Agency we are very worried. Whole penguin communities have disappeared and nobody knows why. There are 18 species of penguin and we don't know which ones are in trouble. We need your help to identify these poor penguins, but you need some training first.

ACTIVITIES

Animal Families

In this discussion activity pupils sort a variety of marine animals into 'family' groups. We look at how pupils made their choices, then guide them through a set of key questions to make classification easier. At this point it would be helpful if the teacher could pick one child on each table to be the Penguin agent in the next activity.

Penguin ID Well done everyone, now you are ready to start work! On every table we have an agent waiting to make their report. Your job is to ask the right questions to find out which species of penguin they were investigating. Read your key questions first. Agents, read your top secret reports.' Every table has a different species of penguin to identify, by using classification keys with the information provided.

What's happening now?

When each group has identified their penguin, they can read & discuss the 'What's happening now?' cards. Now we can discover which penguins are having problems and where in the world they live. Finally we thank pupils for their help and get ready to fly to the Antarctic to sort these problems out.

PLENARY

Organise the six penguins into their Genus names.