

# The Emperor's Egg

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Animals, Family, Lifecycles

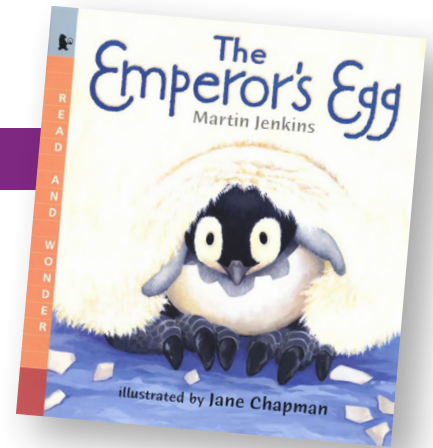
**Book Brief:** The male Emperor penguin endures the freezing Antarctic winter without food for two months, standing on an egg to keep it warm while his mate fishes. This remarkable dedication makes him one of nature's most devoted fathers.

**Author:**

Martin Jenkins

**Illustrator:**

Jane Chapman



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Read the title. Look at the cover of the book with students and ask, "What do you see on the cover of this book? Why do you think the penguin is on top of feet?" What makes them think that? Discuss student responses and keep them in mind for the picture walk.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students if they have ever seen a bird egg before. What are some ways birds protect their eggs?

**Vocabulary:** This story will introduce words about penguins and their environment. Use Picture Cards: *penguin, Antarctica/South Pole, sea/ocean, female, male, egg, hatch, chick, coat, feather, winter, waddle, fish, squid, krill, ice, huddle, flipper, whistle*. Ask students if they know of words in their home language(s) that mean the same thing as these words.

**Purpose for Reading:** "Some types of books are stories, and other books teach us information. As we read, think about whether this book is a story or an informational book."

## WHILE WE READ

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

*Throughout the story, pause and ask...*

- **Level 1:** "Point to the penguin egg on this page."
- **Level 2:** "Who is sitting on the egg (mother or father penguin)?"

- **Level 3:** "Explain why the father sits on the egg. Where is the penguin mom?"
- **Level 4:** "Where is the father penguin going at the end? Why?"

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Say, "Do you think this book was a story or a teaching book? Some informational books sound like stories *and* teach us information."

**Extending Our Thinking:** For Emperor penguins, the father penguin keeps the egg warm while the mother penguin hunts for food. Both penguin parents care for the baby in their own way. How does someone in your family help care for you?

### BOOK ACTIVITY: Arctic Small World Sensory Play

Small world play engages children in thematic learning by acting out scenarios in miniature scenes using small figurines and sensory materials. This type of play expands children's imagination and develops their narrative and storytelling skills. Create your own Arctic Small World Sensory habitat to help children demonstrate their learning about penguins and other arctic animals. Fill a large container with arctic animal figurines and different sensory materials that look like snow and ice such as ice cubes, Epsom salt, shaving cream, and more. Snow what fun!