

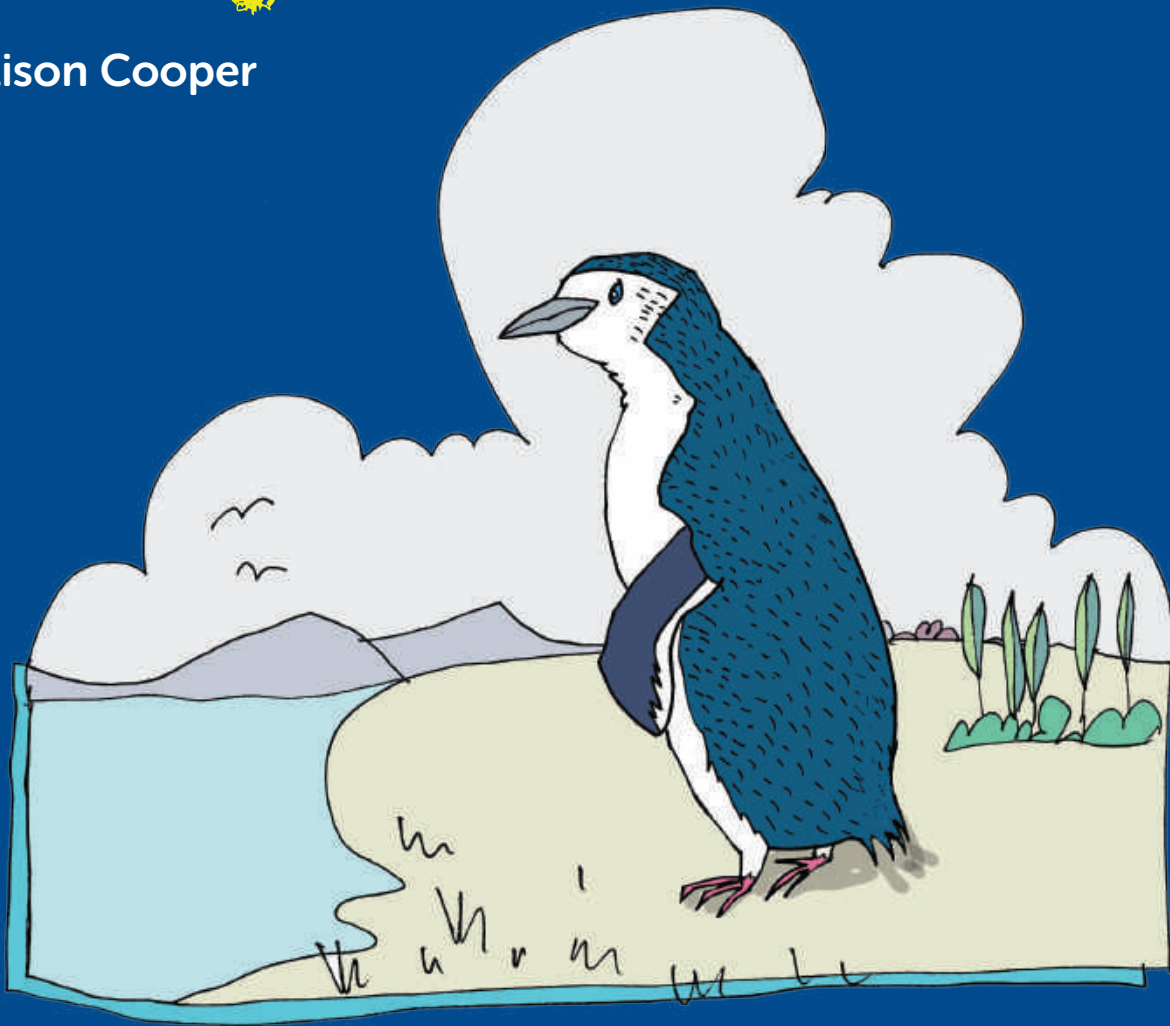


TalkforWriting

Talk for Writing Home-school booklet

# Trixie, an Adventurous Fairy Penguin

by Alison Cooper



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Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for taking time to support your child with their learning. This booklet is designed to inspire and support your child to develop skills and confidence in English – speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Through the world of 'Trixie, an Adventurous Fairy Penguin', your child will explore a range of purposeful activities which are broken down into bite-sized chunks. Each activity is carefully explained and many could be extended. They are designed to be shared activities. At the end of the booklet, you and your child are invited to comment on how they got on with the learning and this will help their class teacher.

The activities in this booklet are:

- Come on a journey with me to the other side of the world!
- Story of 'Trixie, an Adventurous Fairy Penguin'
  - Talk activity about the story
- Exploring words together
- Penguin storybook suggestions
- Reading response activities
  - Who said what?
  - Quiz Time
- Trixie's special watch |
- Thank you time!
- Retelling the story using a story path
- Amazing fairy penguin facts
- Naming body parts
- Enjoying a poem together
- A postcard from Jessica
- Emperor penguins: Jumbled facts
- Get making!
- Review of learning

Come on a journey with me to the other side of the world!

### Fairy penguin facts

Did you know that the world's smallest penguins can be found in parts of Australia and New Zealand? They are known as little penguins or fairy penguins.



**Sydney is a very large city in Australia and there is a small fairy penguin colony in Sydney Harbour.**

**A colony is a group of penguins living together. Come with me to meet the Stickybeak family.**



A fairy penguin. You can find more fairy penguin images at <https://www.penguins-world.com/little-blue-penguin/>

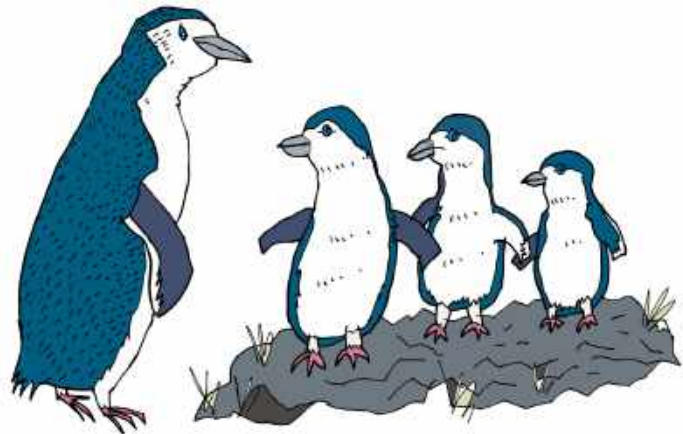
## Trixie Stickybeak - an Adventurous Fairy Penguin

You can listen to the story here:

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/trixie-sticky-beak/s-n9GmQrd5FI9>

Once upon a time, there was a little fairy penguin called Trixie Stickybeak who lived with her family on a rocky shore in Sydney Harbour.

Trixie was the youngest of the Stickybeak family. Her blue and grey plumage shimmered in the sunshine and her tummy was as white as snow. She loved to play on the rocky shore with her brother and sister but Trixie was an adventurous little penguin. What she enjoyed best was to plunge into the sea and explore the dark waters with her friends.



One Monday morning, Mrs Stickybeak said to her little family, "Have a lovely swim today, children, but make sure you come home by tea time."

So, Trixie plunged into the sea and swam away from the shore. She dived, she glided and shot through the water like an arrow. For hour after hour, Trixie explored with her friends until, finally, she was exhausted. Luckily, there was a large rock jutting out of the sea. So, Trixie pulled herself up onto a rocky ledge and fell fast asleep in the afternoon sunshine. When she woke up, it was getting dark and Trixie realised that she was a long way from home. She began to cry. What could she do?

At that moment, Trixie saw a lifeboat coming towards her. So, she stood as tall as a fairy penguin can stand and flapped her flippers. Luckily, the lifeboat crew saw her and steered the boat towards the rock.

"How can we help you, little one?" asked the captain in a booming voice.

"I'm exhausted and a long way from home. Please can you give me a

lift back to my home in the harbour?

"Hop aboard!" boomed the captain and, twenty minutes later, Trixie hopped off the lifeboat onto her very own rocky shore. "Thank you," said Trixie gratefully but Mrs Stickybeak was cross and sent Trixie to her nest immediately. "For the next few days, you're going to stay on our own rocky shore with me," she said and Trixie did just that.

On Saturday morning, Mrs Stickybeak said to her little family, "You can play further away today children but make sure you come home by tea time."

So, Trixie plunged into the sea and swam away from the shore. She dived, she glided and shot through the water like an arrow. For hour after hour, Trixie explored with her friends until, finally, she was exhausted. Luckily, there was an old fishing boat moored nearby. So, Trixie pulled herself onto the deck and fell fast asleep in the afternoon sunshine. When she woke up, it was getting dark and Trixie realised that she was a long way from home. She began to cry. What could she do?

At that moment, Trixie saw a **kayak** paddling towards her. So, she stood as tall as a fairy penguin can stand and flapped her flippers. Luckily, Jessica, the paddler, saw her and steered the kayak towards the old boat.

"How can I help you, little one?" asked Jessica in a gentle voice.

"I'm exhausted and a long way from home. Please can you give me a lift back to my home in the harbour?"

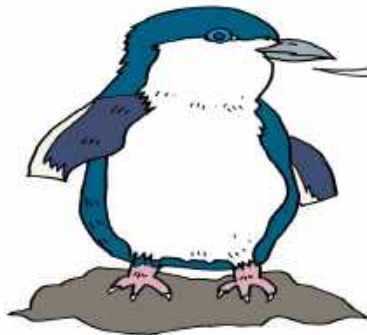
"Hop aboard, you tired little penguin," said Jessica and, thirty minutes later, Trixie hopped off the kayak onto her very own rocky shore. "Thank you," said Trixie gratefully but Mrs Stickybeak was cross and sent Trixie to her nest immediately.

Two days later, Mrs Stickybeak sat her children down. "I've got something special for you," she said as she opened a colourful box. Inside were three waterproof fairy penguin watches. "I'm going to teach you all to tell the time and then Trixie will never be late again."

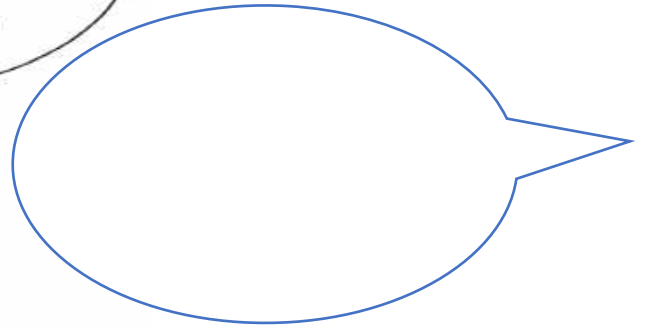
"Hurray! Thank you," yelled all three little Stickybeaks.

And from that day to this, Trixie has never been home late again.

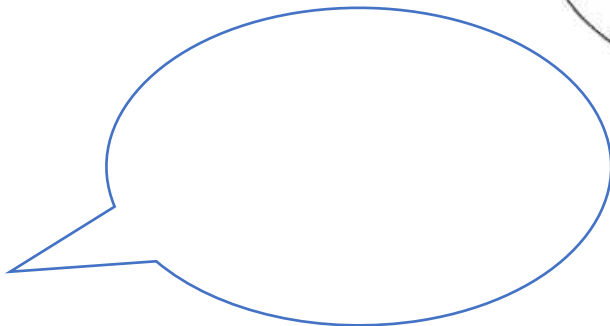
Talk together about the story and then fill in Trixie's bubbles. (Trixie likes best handwriting)



Which part of the story did you like the most?



Did anything about the story surprise you?



Write down any questions you have.



## Exploring words



Here are some words from the story.  
Share them with a helper and talk  
about what they mean.

### plumage

Feathers of a bird.

What action could you do for 'plumage?'

Think about another bird you know. What colour is its plumage?

### adventurous

Keen to explore new places and new things.

What action could you use for 'adventurous?'

Do you know anyone who is 'adventurous?'

## plunge

To enter the water quickly.

What action could you use for 'plunge?'

Can you think of another word to use instead of 'plunge?'

## exhausted

Very, very tired.

What action could you use for 'exhausted?'

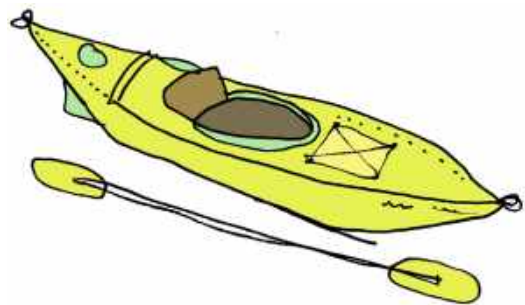
What makes you feel exhausted?

## kayak

A long, narrow boat, pointed at both ends which you steer with a paddle

What action could you use for

'kayak?'

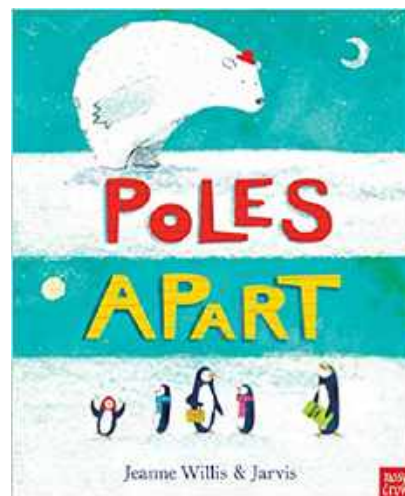
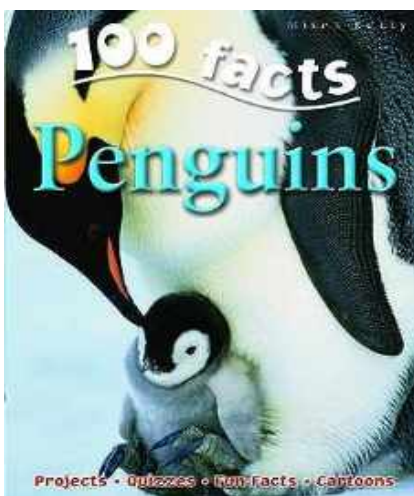
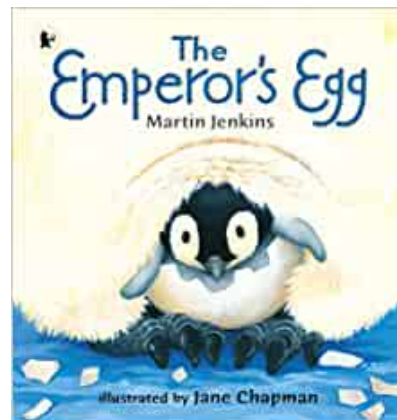
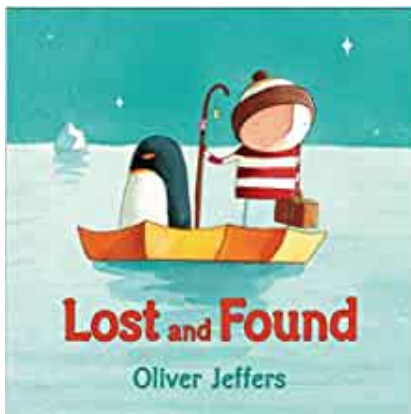


Can you notice something unusual about the spelling of 'kayak?'

(Words like this are called **palindromes**. **Madam** is another palindrome.)



Here are some other books about penguins you might enjoy.



## Who said what?

Can you remember who said each of these things in the story? Match each one with the right character. One has been done for you as an example.

Think carefully – you might have to join one of them to two characters!

“Hop aboard,  
you tired little penguin,”



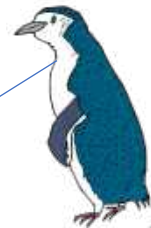
“How can we help you  
little one?”



“I’ve got something  
special for you.”



“Please can you give me  
a lift back to my home  
in the harbour?”



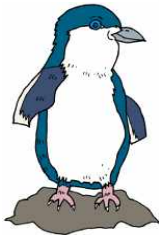
“Have a lovely swim today children  
but make sure you come home by  
tea time.”



# Quiz time

Can you answer these questions about the story?

Trixie's challenge:  
Can you write down the answers  
in full sentences?



Remember to use your best handwriting.

1. Where did Trixie live?

Trixie lived ... \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many children were in the Stickybeak family?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Trixie enjoy doing best?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Find **one word** to say how Trixie felt after hours and hours of exploring.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did Trixie cry when she was standing on the rock?

---

6. Name the two types of boats that gave Trixie a lift back home.

---

7. How did Mrs Stickybeak feel when Trixie got home so late?

---

8. What was the special thing that Mrs Stickybeak gave to Trixie and her brother and sister?

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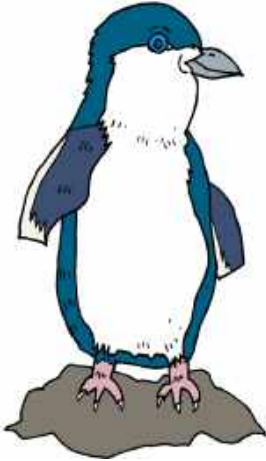
9. What was Mrs Stickybeak going to teach the children?

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10. How do you think Trixie felt at the end of the story?

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## Trixie's special watch

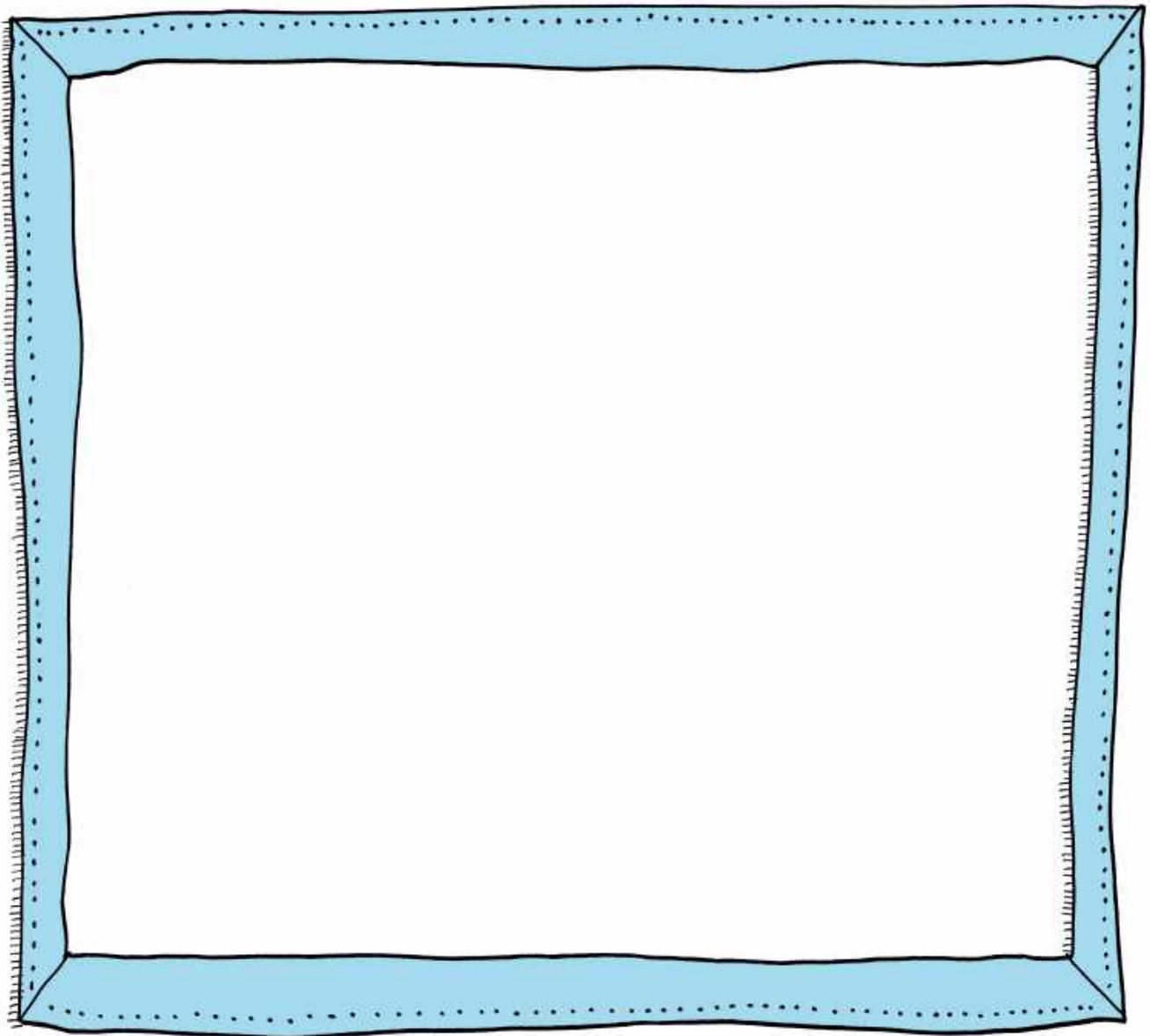


Can you design the special watch which Mrs Stickybeak gave to Trixie?

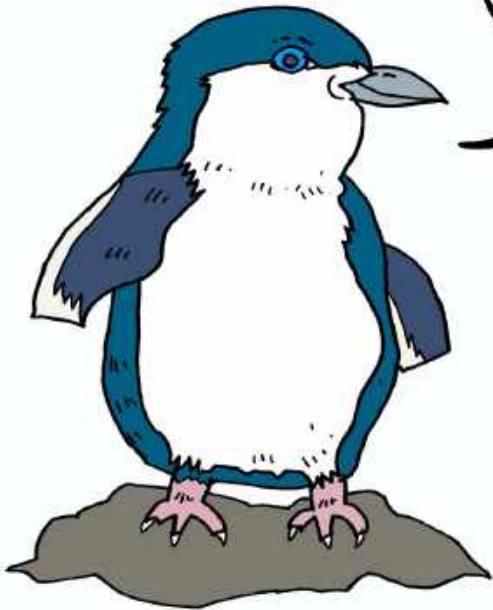
**Remember: it needs to be waterproof**

**Think about where Trixie can wear her new watch so that it won't fall off in the sea.**

**Try to label all the special features that the watch has.**



# Thank you time!



I want to write a letter to Jessica to say thank you for rescuing me in her kayak. I want to tell her about her my watch. Can you help me to write the letter please in your best handwriting?

Dear Jessica,

Thank you .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

# A story path

I've made a story path. Can you re-tell the story and write a sentence for each picture?



One Monday morning, ...



On Saturday morning, ...



## Amazing fairy penguin facts

Fairy penguins are the smallest breed of penguins	
How tall are fairy penguins?	About 33cms. Measure 33cms against your arm or your leg and you'll see how tiny fairy penguins are!
How much do fairy penguins weigh?	About 1.2kg (about as heavy as a bag of sugar!)
Where do fairy penguins live?	In <i>nests</i> or <i>burrows</i> on rocky shores or islands.
What do fairy penguins look like?	They have blue and white feathers ( <i>plumage</i> ), black claws and pink legs.
What do fairy penguins eat?	Small fish, especially sardines and anchovies.
Interesting fact	Penguins can't fly.





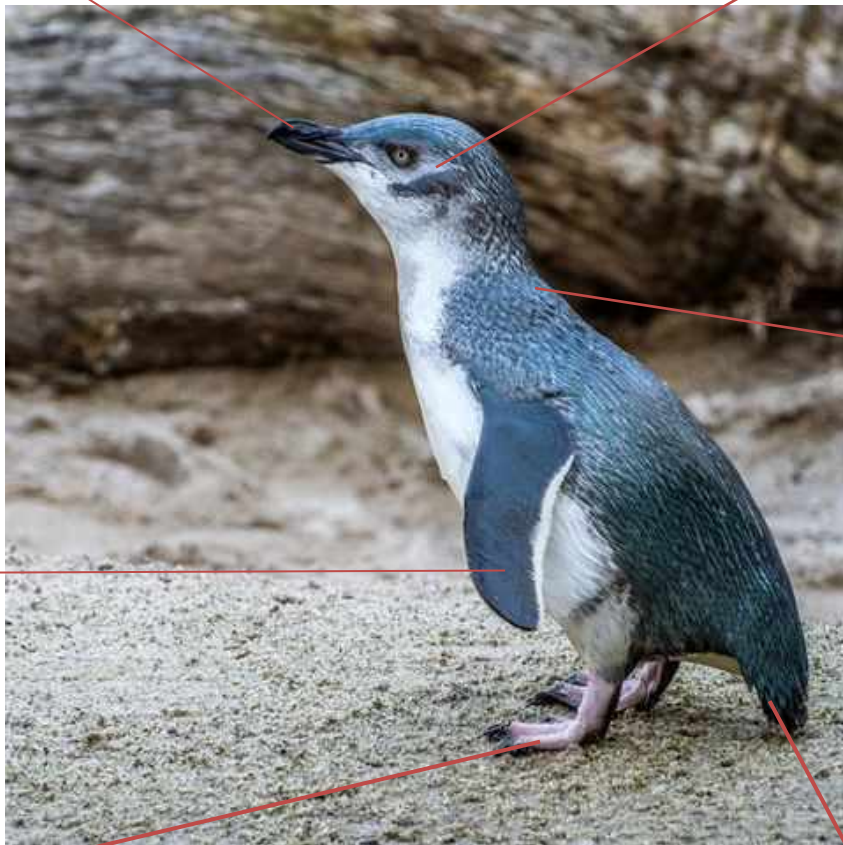
## Fairy penguins: parts of the body

Here are the main parts of a fairy penguin's body. Write the correct label for each different part.

plumage beak claws eye flipper tail

The first one is done for you.

beak



Here's a poem about penguins for you to have some fun with. Try to add actions for each line.

## Poem time!

### Penguin's First Swim

Ten little penguins all in a line  
One jumps in, and now there are nine.  
Nine little penguins, how they hesitate –  
One tumbles in, and now there are eight.  
Eight little penguins pushin' and shovin'  
One slides in, and now there are seven.  
Seven little penguins, scarcely more than chicks –  
One slips in, and now there are six.  
Six little penguins can't decide to dive –  
One falls in, and now there are five.  
Five little penguins huddle on the shore –  
One flops in, and now there are four.  
Four little penguins fidget fearfully –  
One hops in, and now there are three.  
Three little penguins wonder what to do –  
One rolls in, and now there are two ...  
Two little penguins missing all the fun-  
They both leap in, and now there are ...  
Ten little penguins, brave as they can be,  
Splashing in the waves of the salty southern sea.



### Author unknown

You can find lots of versions of this poem on the internet if you want to find more but check with your helper first.

## A postcard from Jessica



I want to send this postcard to Trixie but I'm not very good at putting capital letters and full stops in the right place. Please can you put them in for me?

Dear trixie,

thank you for sending me  
a lovely thank you letter it was a  
pleasure to give you a lift in my  
kayak your mummy was kind to give  
you a watch can you tell the time  
now?

I would like to take you and your  
brother and sister for a ride in my  
kayak next Monday I will come to  
your rocky shore at 9 o'clock we'll  
have fun together

love from Jessica xxx



Trixie Stickybeak

Rocky shore

Sydney Harbour

Australia

## Emperor penguins

On the next page are some facts about emperor penguins for you to read.

Try to write each fact in the correct box.

Look back at the *Fairy Penguin Amazing Facts* to help you.



Images from: <http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/penguin-emperor/overview#section>

# Jumbled Facts about Emperor Penguins

They eat fish and squid.

They weigh 20-40kg.

They are about 112cms tall.

They live in Antarctica in huge colonies on pack ice next to the sea.

They have black and white plumage with orange and yellow patches near their ears and throat.

Up to 5000 penguins will huddle together to keep warm

Try to write each fact in the correct box below. Look back at the *Fairy Penguin Amazing Facts* to help you.

Emperor penguins are the largest breed of penguins	
How tall are emperor penguins?	
How much do emperor penguins weigh?	
Where do emperor penguins live?	
What do emperor penguins look like?	
What do emperor penguins eat?	
Interesting fact	

## Get making!



There are lots of great ways to make your own penguin models or pictures. Here's a website for you to get some ideas from.

<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/penguin-crafts/>



If you want to make penguin biscuits or cakes, here's an idea.

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/perky-penguins>

There are lots more fun ideas and penguin facts on the internet but check with your helper first.



# Review of Learning

How did you get on? Draw a circle around one of the faces below.



I hope you had a great time learning with me. Don't forget to write a message here saying if you enjoyed it.

Which activity did you like best in the booklet?

---

Why did you like this best?

---

What have you learned from this booklet?

---

My helper thinks

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**Alison Cooper, former teacher and Regional Adviser for Primary English with the National Strategies, now works with Talk for Writing to help schools develop the approach.**

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**Many thanks to Jon Ralphs for the cartoons: [jonralphs.com](http://jonralphs.com)**