



At-Home Storytimes

Theme: Arctic



Animals in the Arctic Go

To the tune of *Wheels on the Bus*

Source: Tompkins County Public Library

The penguin on the ice goes
Waddle, waddle, waddle
Waddle, waddle, waddle
Waddle, waddle, waddle!
The penguin on the ice goes
Waddle, waddle, waddle
All through the day!

The polar bear in the water goes
Swim, swim, swim
Swim, swim, swim
Swim, swim, swim!

The polar bear in the water goes
Swim, swim, swim
All through the day!

The fox in the arctic goes
Sniff, sniff, sniff...

The hare on the tundra goes
Hop, hop, hop

Tip: So many other animals and objects can be used to fit the tune of *Wheels on the Bus*. Cleaning up around the house, bath time, meal time, and riding in the car are just a few examples.

I'm a Little Penguin

To the tune of *I'm a Little Teapot*

Source: Adventures in Mrs. Martin's Room Blog

I'm a little penguin
Black and white.
Stout and fluffy
What a sight!
I can't fly
But I love to swim.
So I'll waddle to the water
And dive right in!

Book Suggestions

Dream Flights on Arctic Nights by Brooke Hartman
Pup and Bear by Kate Banks
Polar Bear Morning by Lauren Thompson
A Polar Bear in the Snow by Mac Barnett
Penguins Love their ABCs by Sarah Aspinall
Little Penguins by Cynthia Rylant
Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups by Tadgh Bentley
Where's Walrus? And Penguin? by Stephen Savage
One Cool Friend by Toni Buzzeo

*For more books about penguins, polar bears, and other arctic animals, check out our Animal - Arctic section in picture books!

Possible questions to ask while reading:

What animals do you see on the pages?
Do we see any of these animals where we live? Why or why not?
What do you think arctic animals eat?
Where would penguins and polar bears hunt for food?
Do penguins fly?

Possible questions while doing the activities:

Is it easy to waddle like a penguin?
How many total fish did your penguin eat?
How cold does the water feel?
Do you think this blubber will help the arctic animals swim and hunt in the frigid waters?

Activities at Home

Waddle like a Penguin

Take a balloon, and blow it up big enough that it fits between you or your child's legs. Once the balloon is blown up, place it between you or your child's legs. Prepare for a silly time with waddling around the room like a penguin!

Feed the Penguin

Find an image of a penguin. It can be on a computer, printed out, or cut out. Have goldfish or some other snack that could be penguin food. Give your child a number, and practice counting out the goldfish to feed your penguin. Rolling dice and using flash cards are just a couple of other ways to pick numbers.

Polar Bear Science

Supplies:

Bowl of cold water

Ice cubes

Cold water

Shortening or Crisco

Sandwich bag

Latex or latex-free gloves (optional)

How do polar bears and other animals stay warm in the arctic? They have a layer under their fur that is called blubber, which is a thick layer of fat. This easy experiment will explain how blubber works. First have a bowl of cold water and add ice to it. To get the water colder, place the bowl in the freezer for a few minutes. Stick your hands in the ice water to feel how cold it is. Now place your hand either in a sandwich bag or glove. Spread a good amount of shortening around the gloved hand, and then place another bag over the shortening layer. Now stick your hand again in the cold water. Your hand shouldn't feel as cold as before. This models how a polar bear's layer of blubber helps them stay warm in the arctic.