

ANTARCTIC ANIMALS

by Erik Barneveld



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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🔊 **Antarctica**

Antarctica is a cold place.

It has a blanket of ice
that is more than a mile thick.

🔊 Many animals live in Antarctica.


These special animals can survive
in the cold climate.



Krill

Many sea animals in the Antarctic eat krill.

Krill are tiny pink animals that look like shrimp.

 They swim in big groups called clouds.

Big clouds of krill can make the water look pink.




Whales

The blue whale eats tiny krill.

The whale takes a mouthful of water.

Then it squirts the water out through a filter in its mouth.

 The filter keeps the krill inside while the water goes out.

Finally, when the water is gone, the whale swallows the krill.



🔊 Humpback whales also eat krill. They are famous for their singing. Humpback whales grunt, squeak, click, and **whistle**.

🔊 People call these sounds whale songs. You can hear these songs from miles away.




- ▶ Sperm whales do not eat krill.
They eat big fish and squid.
To find giant squid,
sperm whales dive very deep.
- ▶ They go down almost two miles
and stay underwater
for almost two hours.



Penguins

The Emperor penguin is the biggest Antarctic penguin.

It can be more than three and a half feet tall and can weigh 65 pounds.

 Its **webbed** feet help it swim, and **waterproof** feathers keep it dry and warm.


Otherwise, it might die in the cold water.



Seals

Weddell seals can be more than ten feet long.

They eat fish, squid, octopus, and krill.

 When they swim, they **steer** with their flippers.

When they hunt, they dive more than 2,000 feet and stay underwater for more than an hour.



- ▶ Leopard seals have spots and sharp teeth. They sometimes eat penguins. A leopard seal might catch a **junior** penguin as the young bird is learning to swim.



- ▶ Southern elephant seals spend a lot of time in the water. They dive deep to hunt for fish and sea animals.
- ▶ Their **slippery** skin helps them move easily. Many special animals live in Antarctica.

Responding



TARGET VOCABULARY Word Builder

What animals or things use steering?

Copy the chart. Write the name and how it is steered.

Animal or thing	How it is steered
fish	fins and tail
?	?



Write About It

Text to World This story showed you some animals that live in the Antarctic and swim in the water. Write a few sentences about how these animals steer when they swim.



TARGET VOCABULARY

finally

junior

otherwise

slippery

steer

waterproof

webbed

whistle



TARGET STRATEGY

Infer/Predict Use text

clues to figure out important ideas.



Which vocabulary word means the opposite of “first of all”?

Level: L

DRA: 24

Science

Strategy:

Infer/Predict

Word Count: 328

2.5.21 Build Vocabulary

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