Hello, Penguin

Visit the POLES

Animal TALK

Frosty Ornaments

How many fireflies can you find?

REYNOLD MAINSE / AGE FOTOSTOCK

The elephant isn't really playing a game. It's just scratching an itchy ear.

Hello, Elephant

Hide-&-Seek

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Feed winter birds with these tasty frozen treats.

Frosty Ornaments

RangerRick.org/frosty-ornaments
An ostrich can run faster than a horse.

A Cape ground squirrel uses its tail as a sunshade.

Seahorses are the world's slowest fishes.

A red panda has fur on the bottoms of its feet.

A firefly is not a fly. It is a kind of beetle.

An orangutan builds a new nest to sleep in every night.

A red panda has fur on the bottoms of its feet.
Penguins can’t fly, but they sure are cool. Find out why with these read-aloud poems.

**Dive into PENGUINS**

Ready, set, jump off the ice! It must be time for lunch. Adélie (uh-DAY-lee) penguins dive right in To find some fish to munch.

**Rockhopper penguin**

Has a funny, feathered face. He’s good at hopping over rocks To get from place to place.

**Adélie penguin**

Dive right in To find some fish to munch.
Little emperor penguin chick
Sits on Daddy’s toes.
There she stays snug and warm
Even when it snows.

No penguins—even Galápagos
(guh-LAHP-gohs)—
Can soar up to the sky.
It’s when they’re underwater
That these birds can really “fly.”

This penguin, called a
genToo (JEN-toh),
Thinks it’s pretty neat,
To hop out of the waves
And go surfing on his feet.
Magellanic (maj-uh-LAN-ik) penguins Teach their babies how to speak. But they don’t talk like you and me. They cackle, moo, and squeak.

Baby chinstrap penguins Match their rocky nesting places. But when the chicks grow up, They’ll have stripes under their faces.

King penguins waddle on parade Beside the ocean blue. Marching on their stubby legs Is just what penguins do.

Watch penguins!
The sky over Deep Green Wood was a grumpy gray. The air was icy cold. A blizzard was on its way! And to Ricky Raccoon and his friends, that meant just one thing:

“Blizzard party!” shouted Ricky happily.

“Hurray!” cheered Flora Skunk, Mitzi Mink, and Bizzie Beaver.

“I’m so excited that snow is coming,” said Flora. “We haven’t had a really BIG snow yet this winter!”

The friends were sitting at a picnic table near Ricky’s hollow-oak-tree home. On the table were pieces of white paper, scissors, glue, and glitter.

“Let’s make paper snowflakes,” said Ricky, “while we wait for the real ones to come.”

They each took a piece of white paper and folded it up. Next, they used the scissors to snip out tiny shapes along the folds. Then they unfolded the papers and held them up.

“Instant snowflakes!” said Mitzi, admiring their creations.

“They look great!” said Bizzie.

As they snipped, Flora said, “After it snows, I’m going to make snow angels!”

“Me, too,” said Ricky. “And we can have a snowball fight!”

“And build a snowman,” added Mitzi.

“I like catching snowflakes on my tongue,” said Bizzie. “It reminds me of eating.” Bizzie was always hungry.

When the friends finished making their snowflakes, they laid them on the table.

“They’re beautiful!” exclaimed Mitzi.

“Now let’s add the glitter,” said Ricky.

They spread a thin layer of glue onto the snowflakes. Then they sprinkled the glitter over them.

“What should we do while the glue dries?” asked Flora.

“We could play ’Pin the Flake on the Snowman,’” said Mitzi.

“We could draw pictures,” said Ricky.

“Or we could have a snack!” said Bizzie hopefully.
“OK,” said Ricky. “I guess we can have a snack now. I made something special.” He went to the end of the table and pulled the foil off a plate.

“Snowflake cookies!” everyone yelled with delight. Soon the four friends were all munching the delicious treats.

“I knew a snack was a good idea,” said Bizzie, through a mouthful of cookie.

As the friends ate the last of the cookies, Flora gave an excited squeal. “It’s the first snowflake!” she said. She pointed, and everyone watched as a flake floated slowly down.

“Hey, there’s another!” said Ricky.

“Wow!” exclaimed Flora as she looked. “These snowflakes are so cool-looking up close.”

She handed Mitzi the glass. As Mitzi peeked through, she said, “I’ve heard that no two snowflakes are alike. Each has its own special shape.”

Now the snow was falling harder and faster.

“We’d better get our paper snowflakes inside,” said Ricky, “before they get covered by real snowflakes!”

“Tomorrow, when the storm is over,” said Flora, “we’ll be able to play in the snow all day.”

The friends headed home quickly. From inside his cozy house, Ricky watched the snow falling outside his window.

“That gives me an idea,” Ricky said to himself. He tied pieces of thread to his snowflakes. Then he hung each of them from the ceiling. He stood back to admire his work.

“Awesome!” Ricky said. “Now there’s a blizzard inside and out!”
ANIMAL TALK

Animals don't use words. But they have plenty to say.

I like you!

A blue-footed booby talks with its feet. These birds do a dance to say they are a couple. Watch them dance!
A white-tailed deer talks with its tail. The deer raises its tail to warn other deer that there is a threat nearby and they should run away.

A frilled lizard talks with its skin. The lizard opens up the frill of skin on its neck to tell other animals to back off.

A cheetah talks with its pee. The scent lets other animals know the cheetah has been here.
A male frigatebird talks with his throat pouch. The bird puffs up his neck like a bright red balloon when he wants to impress females.

A sea lion talks with its whiskers. Sea lions touch whiskers to let each other know they are friendly.

A crayfish talks with its claws. The animal raises its big pincers to tell other creatures to stay away.
A sea otter has a super-thick coat. It has more hairs on the back of its paw than you have on your head.

Watch a sea otter mom and baby.

It’s so quiet. Where is everyone?

Many animals sleep during the winter, and a lot of birds fly south.

Here’s a winter friend who won’t fly away or go to sleep.

Now I’m tired. I’m going to go take a nap.

It’s a good thing I have the snowman to keep me company.

I have an idea. Let’s make a new friend.

A Winter Friend

THE ADVENTURES OF

Bonnie & Chester

Ever WONDER?

Which animal has the thickest fur coat?

THE END

It’s a good thing I have the snowman to keep me company.
Animal Fun

Match each animal to the message it is sending.

1. Skunk
2. Rattlesnake
3. Red-winged Blackbird
4. Firefly
5. Wolf
6. Elephant

A. Let's Play
B. Hold On, I'll Keep You Safe
C. If you rattle me, I'll bite you!
D. Check Out My Handsome Colors!
E. Back Off or I Will Stink Up the Place
F. Let's Light Up the Night!

Illustration by Katrin Wiehle
We live in the ... **ARCTIC**

The Arctic is the area around the North Pole at the very top of the world. It is very cold here most of the year.

**Arctic fox** runs across the snow.

**Puffin** flies over the cold water.

**Walrus** rests on an ice floe.

1. **My paw is bigger than a dinner plate.**

2. **I’m a very strong swimmer.**

3. **My thick fur works as a blanket to keep me warm.**

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**I live in the arctic, too. Guess who I am.**

Open the flap to see who I am.
A polar bear is at home in the icy waters of the Arctic.