

Language Legends @Home



My name is

.....

.....

Date

.....



How this works

Language Legends is all about **Talking, Listening and Understanding**.

The activities help with these skills, which are really important for children to learn and make friends. Each activity has a short explanation of how it helps.

This is not about reading or writing, so it is fine for adults to help with reading and writing elements.

The most important thing is to **have a conversation**, to talk together to work things out, to help your child understand and to explain what they know.

Top Tips for the workbook

1. Take it slowly – you don't have to do all the activities at once. Maybe do about 15-20 minutes (or less) and leave the rest for another day.
2. It is not about quickly going through activities – the main point is talking and listening to each other. Follow your child's lead.
3. Do a quick reminder each day of work you have done already – ask your child what they can remember and help fill in any gaps.
4. Encourage your child to ask if they don't understand. This is a really important skill.
5. This workbook belongs to your child. They can use it to draw, doodle, write about the story.

Top Tips for encouraging communication

1. Put aside a little time each day for talking together. Share family stories and experiences, encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings.
2. Encourage your child to ask questions if they are unsure of something – this really helps with understanding.
3. Talk about words – what they look and sound like and what they mean.
4. Try to get rid of distractions, like the TV or phones. Listening to your child helps them learn how to listen in return.
5. Ask your child to expand on what they say – talk and listen to find out more.

Each week we will look at a news article or short story in our Language Legends workbook.

This week is a short story about a reluctant penguin called George.

Answers can be found on the back page.



Story in a nutshell

This task helps children to remember the main points of a story.

15th January 2021 // 0013

Short Story

The Reluctant Penguin

George was a young penguin living in the **southern hemisphere**. His fluffy grey baby feathers had been **replaced** with the black and white **suit** worn by all the penguins in the **rookery**. It was time for George to take his first **dip** in the freezing cold ocean.

"I don't want to go swimming mum," George **complained** for the **umpteenth** time. "The water looks scary and cold, the waves are too high and I just don't think I was meant to swim."

George's mum sighed. "George, you were built for swimming. Look, your wings are stiff, like **supercharged flippers**. You have **multiple** layers of **sleek** feathers for warmth. Your body is **streamlined** for diving and moving. Swimming is great. The most **dangerous** part is getting in."

George grumped. "Getting in is the easy bit. It's the swimming I hate."

"**Honestly** George, how do you know when you've never tried? Anyway, there's no **choice**. Today all you young ones have your first swim. It's time!"

Sulking all the way, George began to follow the other young penguins towards the water's **edge**. As he **trudged** along, he heard his mum's voice on the wind, "...careful getting in..." It made George cross. It was the swimming he hated. Getting in would be easy.



A difficult journey

Slowly his friends jumped down the **jagged** rocks towards the **ocean**. When it was his turn, George began to **carefully** hop down the rocks, but he got stuck. His friends were in the water now, shouting and calling. **Momentarily** his **concentration** left him and he slipped, tumbling head over feet down the cold grey rocks.

"Ouch," George **complained**, but **worse** danger was here; a huge Caracara bird had spotted him. As George **waddled** towards the sandy shore, it began to peck at him with its sharp hooked beak. Before he knew it, George was **surrounded** by these **terrifying predators**. George tried to fight them off, but he was no match for their size or strength. Just as he thought **his time was up**, he heard a loud noise – a group of Steamer Ducks! They had a **reputation** for being **aggressive** and for hating Caracara birds. Before he knew it, the Steamer Ducks had chased every one of the predators away.

George **wasted no time**, he waddled as fast as he could to the water. He couldn't wait to dive right in. He'd been so worried, but the ocean felt like home, like freedom. Within seconds he was **speeding** through the water, diving to the dark **depths**. He hated to **admit** it, but his mum was right, getting in was awful, but the swimming...what a **joy**!



Summarise the story

Read and talk through the questions with your child. Your child can write in the answers if they want to, or you can write what they say.

- **Who** was this story about?

- **Where** did it happen?

- **When** did it happen?

- **What** two things do you remember about the story?

- **How** did George feel about swimming in the end?



Deeper Dive

Looking at one section of the story helps with understanding and using language. Work through the questions together. Encourage children to pick out any words they don't understand. Help them by explaining what they mean. We have highlighted a few words that might be tricky.

As George **waddled** towards the sandy shore, it began to peck at him with its sharp hooked beak. Before he knew it, George was **surrounded** by these **terrifying predators**. George tried to fight them off, but he was no match for their size or strength. Just as he thought **his time was up**, he heard a loud noise – a group of steamer ducks! They had a **reputation** for being **aggressive** and for hating Caracara birds.

Questions

Read and talk through the questions together. Either you or your child can write in the answers.

- Who attacked George?

- Why did the Steamer Ducks come to help?

- What would have happened to George if the ducks hadn't arrived?



Week One 2021

- Why did George think *his time was up*? What does this mean?

- Can you think of another word for aggressive?

Southern Hemisphere

The Southern Hemisphere is the southern half of the Earth. It begins at the equator at 0° and continues south until it hits the South Pole in the middle of Antarctica. The continents found in the Southern Hemisphere include around a third of Africa, all of Antarctica, most of South America and all of Australia.

Penguins are a family of 18 species of birds that live primarily in the Southern Hemisphere. They include the tiny blue penguins of Australia, the majestic emperor penguins of Antarctica, the endangered African penguin and the Galápagos penguin — the only penguin to be found north of the equator.

Though they are birds, penguins have flippers instead of wings. They cannot fly and on land they waddle walking upright, though when snow conditions are right they will slide on their bellies. In the water they are expert swimmers and divers, and some species can reach speeds of up to 15 miles per hour. The penguin's distinctive colouring, black body with white belly, helps camouflage the bird in the water as it searches for meals of small shrimp, fish, crabs and squid.

Here are some meals for penguins, can you label them which is which?

Shrimp, fish, crabs or squid.



Week One 2021

Other types of Penguins

Here are some of the types of penguins, can you match the description of the penguin to the pictures?

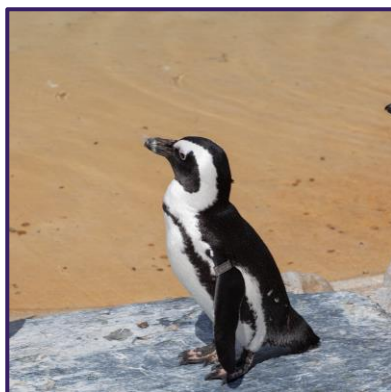
Rockhopper Penguins have a crest of feathers on their heads. They are called rockhoppers because they hop from rock to rock to their nesting places. They keep both feet together so they can jump up more than a metre.

African Penguins are a species of penguin confined to warmer southern African waters. They have a black stripe and black spots on their chest, the pattern of spots is unique for every penguin, just like a human fingerprint.

Chinstrap Penguins get their name from the small black band that runs under their chin. They are about 2 feet tall and are the most common penguins with a population of about 13 million. They often live on large icebergs on the open ocean in the Antarctic region.

Emperor Penguins are the largest species of penguin and it has a colourful plumage of orange and yellow close to its ear. Emperor penguins are very sociable and live in colonies of anything from five hundred to twenty thousand pairs of penguins in Antarctica.

Adelie penguins are the littlest species of penguin in the Antarctic, with white bellies and black backs. They might look cute and a bit clumsy on land but these birds are feisty. They've been known to take on potential predators like seals or large seabirds.





Word of the day

Knowing and understanding lots of words can really help children to understand things better, to read, learn and to use their talking to get by in the world. This section focuses on teaching one word in depth.

The title of the story is:
*The **Reluctant** Penguin.*

The word of the day is...

Reluctant

How well do you know this word?

Write the word in the section below where it fits the best with your child's understanding.

Never saw or heard it before.	Heard it but not sure what it means.	Know this word and can use it in a sentence.
Write the word here if you don't know it:	Write the word here if you have some idea:	Write the word here if you know this word:

Write your sentence here if you know this word:

What does this word mean, what is the definition?

The word **reluctant** means:

Not willing to do something – you don't want to do it.



What does this word sound like?

- What sound is at the beginning? _____
- What sound is at the end? _____
- How many syllables does it have? _____
- Write down as many words as you can using the letters in the word **reluctant**.

- Write a sentence using the word exhausted.

For example: "I was reluctant to go out this morning because it was freezing cold."

- Draw a picture to help you remember the word.

Week One 2021

Word activity

This activity helps with understanding the word of the day. Use the pictures to talk about the word and think about what it means in different situations.



My little sister is really reluctant to clean her room – I wonder why?

What is the dog reluctant about? Why do you think they are being reluctant?



This boy is reluctant to start his homework. What makes you feel reluctant?

My brother stopped and now he's so reluctant to move! Why do you think that is? What could get him going again?





Understanding

This quick quiz helps with the understanding of the story. Talk about the statements and have your child say whether they are True or False. Encourage them to explain how they know, with examples from the story.

Quiz

- George the penguin was excited about his first swim.

- George's mum warned him the journey was more dangerous than swimming.

- George had a very dangerous journey.

- Caracara birds and Steamer Ducks are made up creatures.

- This is could be a true story. How do you know?

Week One 2021

**Talking, explaining & story telling**

Giving children the opportunity to explain, tell stories or predict what might happen next is a really good way to build their language – it is like a communication workout!

An Antarctic story

Talk through these questions with your child and encourage them to use their imagination to come up with their own story about what it might be like to live somewhere as cold as the penguins do.

Talk together about an Antarctic story. This could be a real-life idea, or something completely made up. Write four sentences below or if you prefer, draw a picture to show your story idea, then explain it to an adult.

- Who will be in your story?
- What will happen first?
- What will happen next?
- What will happen in the end?



Week One 2021



What do we think?

When children think and reflect on their learning, it can really help them to remember and make sense of the activities. Have your child tell you / fill in the details below.

- My favourite activity was:

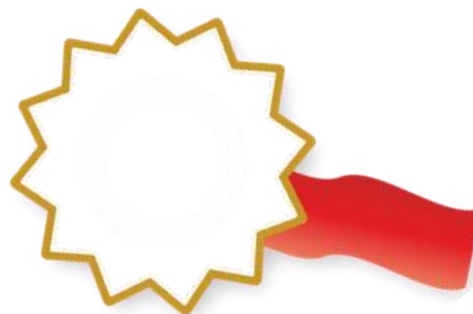
- Because:

- One thing I learned was:

- The person who helped me was:

You're a star!

Don't forget to colour in your medal for a job well done.



Workbook answers

Story in a nutshell

- *Who was this story about?* **George the reluctant penguin.**
- *Where did it happen?* **A penguin rookery in the southern hemisphere.**
- *When did it happen?* **On the day the young penguins had their first swim.**
- *What two things do you remember about the story?* **George was complaining about swimming, he fell down the rocks, he was chased by a caracara bird, steamer ducks saved him.**
- *How did George feel about swimming in the end?* **George really liked swimming, he found it a joy.**

Deeper dive

- *Who attacked George?* **A group of Caracara birds.**
- *Why did the steamer ducks come to help?* **Because they are aggressive and hate Caracara birds.**
- *What would have happened to George if the ducks hadn't arrived?* **George would have been killed.**
- *Why did George think his time was up? What does this mean?* **George was surrounded by predators he couldn't escape from. His time being up means he thought he was going to die.**
- *Can you think of another word for aggressive?* **Threatening, angry, bullying, hostile, unkind.**

Word of the day

- *What sound is at the beginning?* **r**
- *What sound is at the end?* **t**
- *How many syllables does it have?* **3**
- *Write down as many words as you can using the letters in the word reluctant. Ant, tent, lure, tan, ten, tar, net*

Understanding

- *George the penguin was excited about his first swim.* **FALSE – he was reluctant to swim.**
- *George's mum warned him the journey was more dangerous than swimming.* **TRUE – but he didn't believe her.**
- *George had a very dangerous journey.* **TRUE – he fell down the rocks and was attacked by Caracara birds.**
- *Caracara birds and Steamer Ducks are made up creatures.* **FALSE – they are real creatures.**
- *This could be a true story. How do you know?* **TRUE – penguins need to swim to hunt for food and their journey to the ocean can be treacherous.**