



Nesting and Protecting

Audience

Activity designed for ages 4 years old and up. You will need at least 2 people for this activity.

Goal

To be physically active while learning about nesting penguins.

Objective

- To understand that penguins are birds and use nests to raise their young.
- To understand that raising young is not easy.
- To have fun and be active.

Conservation Message

Penguins live in a climate that is slowly changing due to global climate change, but we can do some simple things to help protect the penguin's habitat! To help the penguins be sure to always turn off lights when you leave a room to help save energy. Using a reusable water bottle instead of a plastic one helps to lessen the amount of plastic in the world.

Background Information

Penguins use rocks and pebbles to build their nests. Male (boy) penguins build the nests for the female (girl) penguins to lay their eggs. The nest will eventually become a home for their babies, known as chicks. A lot of penguins can be found in Antarctica during the summer months. Antarctica is mostly covered in ice making it very difficult to find nest building materials. Once a patch of ice melts, there are plenty of rocks and pebbles to go around! The male penguin gets the female penguin's attention by building the biggest and best nest in the area. There are so many penguins in Antarctica at one time and they will often steal each other's pebbles. Therefore, it is very important for the penguins to protect their nests.

Materials Needed

- Nesting items (rocks, toys, or other small objects to serve as pebbles.)
- Rope or string

Length of Activity

20-30 minutes

Procedure

- Build one nest with your "pebbles."
- Select one person to be the Protector. They will guard the nest.
- Everyone else who is playing will be Pebble Stealers. You can have as many Pebble Stealer as you would like, the more the better!
- Mark a starting line about 10 steps away from the nest using the rope. Players acting as Pebble Stealers will line up behind the starting line.
- The Protector stands by the nest, facing away from the starting line so they can't see the Pebble Stealer(s). Make sure the nest is in between the starting line and the Protector.
- The Pebble Stealers goal is to steal a "pebble" without being caught by the Protector.

Starting the Game

1. All the Pebble Stealers start behind the starting line.
2. The Protector is at the nest, facing away from the starting line. Make sure the nest is in-between the starting line and Protector.
3. Someone will say "Go" and the Pebble Stealers try to take an item from the nest.
4. The Pebble Stealers try to get a "pebble" from the nest and make it back over the starting line without getting tagged by the Protector.

Rules

- If the Protector thinks that a Pebble Stealer is approaching, they turn around and try and tag an approaching Pebble Stealer before they get back to the starting line.
- If tagged, the Pebble Stealer must start from a giant step behind the starting line on their next turn.
- If the Protector turns around to check for Pebble Stealers and none are approaching the nest, then the Protector must take a giant step away from the nest.
- If a Pebble Stealer successfully steals a "pebble" from the nest, it's their turn to be the Protector!