

Penguins Under the House



Little blue penguins are the world's smallest penguins. They nest in caves along the shore in Australia and New Zealand. When people began building houses on the shoreline, these penguins began living under them.






Nesting under a house is not as safe as nesting in a cave on a **remote** beach. Dogs kill penguins. Cars are also a problem. To get to their nests, the penguins may need to cross a road. Signs warn drivers to slow down, but little blue penguins are hard to see at night. These little birds are being **displaced** by coastal cities and towns.




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Drawing Inferences



Before reading

-  Read the title.
-  With your learning partner(s), discuss what you think this text will be about.
-  Skim and scan the text.


During reading

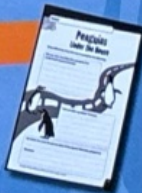
-  Read the text aloud or listen to the audio.
-  Draw inferences to answer each of these questions:
 - Why do you think penguins began nesting under houses in Australia and New Zealand?
 - Penguins face many dangers when they nest under houses. So what are the advantages?
-  Discuss your answers. Talk about how you drew an inference to find the answer to each question. Show your partner(s) your evidence for each answer.

After reading

-  Discuss whether drawing inferences from this text was difficult or easy. Give a reason for your opinion.
-  Discuss how drawing inferences about this text helped you to understand it better.




Writing activity

-  Work with your partner(s) to fill out the graphic organiser on page 63 of the Reflection Journal.






Drawing Inferences



Before reading

-  Read the title and look at the map.
-  With your learning partner(s), discuss what you predict this text will be about.
-  Skim and scan the text.


During reading

-  Read the text aloud or listen to the audio.
-  Draw an inference to answer each of these questions:
 - Why are some animals' habitats disappearing in Africa?
 - What type of destruction could lions, cheetahs and elephants cause on the Great Plains?
-  Discuss your answers. Talk about how you drew an inference from the text to find the answer to each question.

After reading

-  With your partner(s), share your opinion on whether it is a good or bad idea to release African animals into the Great Plains.
-  Discuss how drawing inferences helped you to understand this text better.

Writing activity

-  Work with your partner(s) to fill out the graphic organiser on page 64 of the Reflection Journal.



Home on the Range

Could lions, cheetahs and elephants one day roam the Great Plains?



Forget about travelling to Africa to go on a safari. If some scientists have their way, people may be able to spot lions, cheetahs and elephants roaming the Great Plains of North America. The region extends from the **Mississippi River** to the Rocky Mountains and from Canada to Texas.



A wild plan?

A team of scientists wants to introduce African animals such as lions, elephants and cheetahs to the United States. The goal of their bold plan is to help save endangered animals from **extinction** in Africa. Many animal **habitats** there are disappearing.

The African animals they want to relocate to the Great Plains are the closest living relatives of animals that lived in the United States long ago. Some of those ancient animals include saber-toothed cats and mastodons. A mastodon was an elephant-like creature with long tusks. Those animals lived until the last **ice age** ended, about 10,000 years ago.

Bad idea

People who oppose the plan argue that releasing **species** into new **environments** could cause destruction. Cattle and sheep **ranchers** are also concerned that the wild animals will **devour** their herds.

Many scientists say that relocating African animals is a bad idea because there are already many species that need protection in North America. Scientist Donald Grayson adds, "Why introduce ... [elephants] and lions when there are North American species that could benefit from the same kind of effort?"

"Home on the Range." Weekly Reader 4, October 14, 2005. Copyright © Weekly Reader Corporation 2005. All rights reserved.