

Activity 4: Protecting Penguin City

**GRADES
4 - 8**

One day the King Penguins of Penguin City may have to leave their home. Climate change is causing temperatures to rise around the world, and on South Georgia Island this warming trend means that stormy weather can bring rain instead of snow. But for the penguin chicks, rain can be fatal. Their fuzzy feathers keep them insulated from the snow, which sticks to the feather tips and seals in a layer of air close to their skin that traps body heat. Rain, however, soaks into their feathers, coating the chicks in cold water. If they cannot dry off in time, they die.

Scientists have found evidence that humans are at least partly the cause of climate change. The fuel we burn to produce electricity and heat and to power cars and trucks releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which traps the warmth of the sun and causes temperatures to rise. Scientists who study the King Penguin warn, too, that humans can threaten Penguin City by fishing in the waters around South Georgia Island. We do not eat the lanternfish that King Penguins depend on, but these little fish can be caught up in fishing nets intended for larger fish. And if that happens, the King Penguins may have to swim farther

out to sea to find food, forcing their chicks to go longer without a meal and exposing the penguins to greater risk of attacks from Leopard Seals and Killer Whales.

But if humans may be posing a threat to Penguin City, we can also take action to protect it. The first step is to let people know how climate change and fishing too close to South Georgia Island could alter the habitat of Penguin City and force the King Penguins to find a new home. You can take this first step by organizing your own public education project.

Work as a class or in small groups to tell people the story of Penguin City. You might create a skit or a computer presentation, a comic book or a poster. Think about ways that people can help protect Penguin City and include those ideas in your story. For example, you might encourage people to support international laws that prohibit fishing near South Georgia Island. Or you might suggest ways that people can help reduce the effects of climate change. Use this chart to plan your public education project. Then use your talents and what you have learned about the King Penguins to help protect Penguin City.



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Penguin City Public Education Project	
How I would tell the story of Penguin City	
Story Outline	
• Scenes to show life in Penguin City	
• Scenes to show what threatens Penguin City	
Ideas for helping to protect Penguin City	

