

# What did the polar bear say to the penguin? Nothing... because they never met!

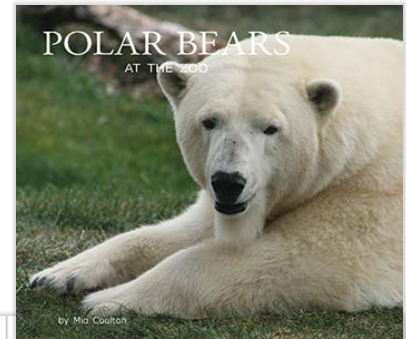
The Antarctic and the Arctic have the coldest, most harsh weather conditions on the planet, but they are very different places, with very different animal inhabitants. The Antarctic is a continent surrounding the South Pole. The Arctic is not a land mass. It is a large cap of ice surrounding the North Pole, above the Arctic Ocean. The two areas are similar in that they are both very cold, have long periods of darkness, and get very little precipitation, making it difficult

for plants to grow. Antarctica, however, gets much colder than the Arctic. While native people, polar bears, reindeer, hares, lemmings, arctic foxes, snowy owls, and many other land birds live in the Arctic, Antarctica has no native people and no significant land animal inhabitants. The largest native Antarctic land animal is a half-inch long insect. What Antarctica does have is a variety of sea life, including whales, seals, sea birds, and several types of penguins. Living at opposite ends of the world, penguins and polar bears would never cross paths.

Polar bears and penguins both love to swim, eat plenty of fish, and are well-suited for life in subzero temperatures with their specialized body adaptations. And they both depend on

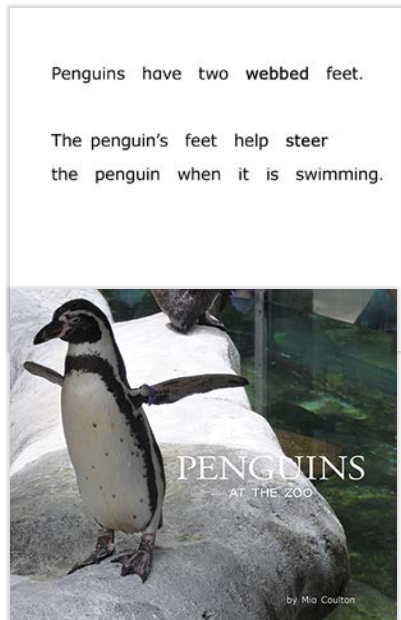
the oceans that surround them for survival. After reading several resource books about polar bears and penguins, use the template on page 3 to make a classroom Venn diagram to compare the polar bears and penguins, noting their

similarities and differences. We'll start you off with a few facts, on the next page. Can you think of others? Place each fact in the correct area on the diagram: **Polar Bear**, **Penguin**, or for traits they share **Both**.



Look at the polar bear's paw.  
It is huge!

The big paws of the polar bear have footpads like Velcro. This keeps the polar bear from slipping on the ice.



## Polar Bear or Penguin? Or both?

1. They are usually white and black.
2. They have wings shaped like flippers.
3. They are very good swimmers.
4. They have webbed feet or paws for swimming.
5. They eat fish.
6. They have beaks.
7. They do not have teeth.
8. They walk on the ice by waddling.
9. They are covered in specialized feathers.
10. They have lots of fat (blubber) under their skin to keep warm.
11. They have small ears and a black nose.
12. They have a very good sense of smell.
13. They have specialized skin to help keep them warm.
14. They are covered in fur.
15. They have special pads on their paws to help them walk on ice.

# Polar Bear or Penguin? Or both?

