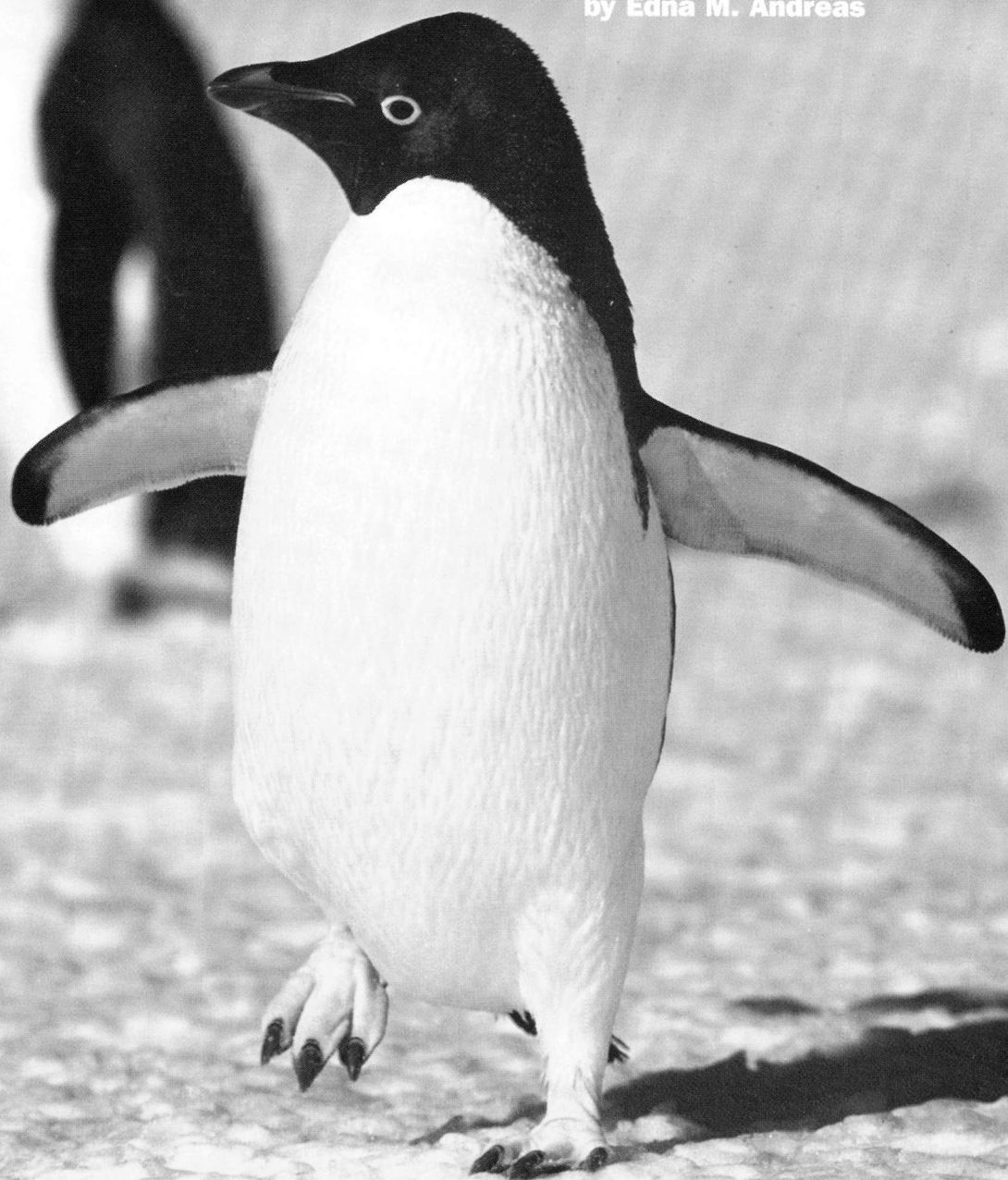


A Penguin Steals a Ride

by Edna M. Andreas



1 The United States Navy does not let hitchhikers ride on its ships. It is very strict about this. But once there was a small Adélie penguin who did not know about this rule. Nor did it care. It took a free ride on a submarine named the U.S.S. *Sennet*.

2 It happened in 1947 when the U.S.S. *Sennet* went to Antarctica. It was the first submarine to make this trip. As the ship neared land, it moved slowly. The sea was packed with ice. Part of the ship's main deck showed above the water as it moved through the icy sea. All of a sudden, there was a strange noise on deck. *PLOP!*

3 Now penguins can do a strange thing. When people and animals dive, they go down into the water. Then they have to swim or climb out. A penguin can dive into the water too. However, penguins can "dive" out as well. They can jump out of the water and land on their two feet.

4 That was just what this small penguin did. It gave the sailors on the submarine quite a surprise.

5 *PLOP!*

6 The sailors checked to see if their ship had hit a cake of ice. It had not. Then they saw the penguin. It had just jumped up on the ship. It had landed on its feet.

7 The men stared at the penguin. The penguin looked at the men. Then the bird went up to the captain and bowed. Then it went to most of the sailors on deck and did the same. It seemed to be saying hello. After that, it found a spot it liked on deck.

And there it stood, just like a snowman. It stayed there for the next two days.

8 The little penguin had a long, free ride on the ship. Then it dived into the cold sea and swam away. Maybe it had reached the place it was going to. Or maybe it just got tired of its ride. No one knows. But the navy men think that this small penguin was the first hitchhiker at the bottom of the world.

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COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 The penguin in this story was unusual because
 - a** it lived in Antarctica.
 - b** it was in the icy water.
 - c** it was a hitchhiker.
- 2 The penguin had never seen a submarine because
 - a** it was too young when other submarines had been to Antarctica.
 - b** a submarine had never been to Antarctica before.
 - c** it had just started living in Antarctica.
- 3 If the submarine had been going faster, the penguin probably
 - a** wouldn't have been able to jump aboard.

- b** would have brought more penguins with him.
- c** would have been picked up by the sailors.

- 4 Because the penguin was so well-behaved, the sailors let him
 - a** ride along with them.
 - b** jump off later.
 - c** bow to them.
- 5 "The bottom of the world" in the last sentence means
 - a** the bottom of the ocean.
 - b** the deck of the submarine.
 - c** the sea around Antarctica.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 people who ask for free rides (1)
- 2 firm; stern; severe (1)
- 3 approached; came close to (2)
- 4 crammed (2)

- 5 boat that can go underwater (4)
- 6 big piece (6)
- 7 person in charge of a ship (7)
- 8 come to; arrived at (8)

C **too** = also

two = the number after *one*

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.



LEARN ABOUT WORDS (continued)

Look at each word in **bold type**. Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find the homophone. Which of the two words fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** The bird's **song** was as **sweet** as **honey**.

This sentence helps you understand how sweet the bird's song was. The phrase "as sweet as honey" is a figure of speech. It is a different way of saying that the bird's song was very lovely.

Choose the word from the first two sentences that best fits in the blank. Write the word.

- 1 A rabbit is quick. A snail is slow. The submarine moved as slowly as a _____.
- 2 A rock is hard. A piece of cotton is soft. The ice was as hard as a _____.
- 3 A saucer is round. A box is square. When the sailors saw the penguin, their eyes got as _____ as saucers.
- 4 The day is bright. The night is dark. Underwater, it was as dark as _____.
- 5 A river is restless. A stone is still. The penguin stood as still as a _____.

- 9** **mane** (2)

The _____ thing was to reach Antarctica safely.

- 10** **see** (2)

The boat sailed across the blue _____.

- E** Most words add an *s* to mean more than one.

penguin → penguins

But sometimes words change their spelling to mean more than one.

one wolf → two **wolves**

one man → two **men**

Read each sentence. Which of the two words in () fits the sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Many (man, men) sailed on the U.S.S. *Sennet*.
- 7 One of them had never seen a penguin in his (life, lives).
- 8 The penguin stood as still as a (snowman, snowmen) for two days.
- 9 When the penguin jumped onto the deck, it landed on its two (foot, feet).
- 10 Some of the sailors wrote to their (wife, wives) about the bird.