

## Children's Book of Knowledge

Approach: Station

Level: Year 4

Resources: Oxford Children's Pocket Book of Knowledge (1992)

## Penguins

All penguins live in the southern hemisphere and emperor and Adelie penguins actually live on the ice of Antarctica. The emperor

penguin is the largest penguin, standing over 1 m in height. It lays its eggs at the start of the Antarctic winter, so it endures

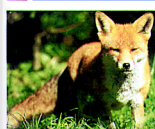
some of the worst weather conditions experienced by any bird. Temperatures may fall below  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  with hurricane force winds. Snow continually blows and there is no food. Males incubate the eggs on their feet, hidden under folds of skin, for 60 days. The males lose about half their body weight and only one chick in five will survive.



▲ All penguins are mainly black and white but size and head patterns differ. The penguins are not drawn to scale.

**Did you know?**  
Emperor penguins can dive to depths of 265 m (870 ft) and stay underwater for nine minutes.

## Foxes



The red fox is found over more of the world than any other carnivore: from the Arctic tundra through grassland to temperate forest. It can survive on a wide variety of foods, such as rabbits, earthworms, carrion and fruit. In season wild berries, apples and rosehips can make up 90 % of its diet.

**Did you know?**  
Foxes can run at speeds of 48 km/h (30 mph) over long distances, jumping obstacles and swimming through water.

## Light years

The distances in space between stars and galaxies are so enormous that it is not convenient to measure them in kilometres or miles. Instead, they can be measured in light years. Light travels through space at a speed of 299,792 km (186,282 miles) per second. A light year is the distance light travels in 1 year. It is equal to 9.5 million million km (5.9 million million miles).

## Lincoln, Abraham

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809, in a log cabin into a poor family, but became president of the USA. During the Civil War he wrote a proclamation to free all US slaves. After the war, he wanted to heal the wounds between north and

## Lions

Lions live in groups called prides, usually made up of about a dozen animals. The females in a pride are usually sisters and remain together for life. Males rarely stay for more than three years. Lionesses do

most of the hunting; only one hunt in four is successful. An adult male may eat 40 kg (90 lb) in a single meal, but then will not eat again for several days.

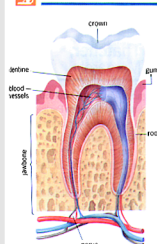


## Lizards

The largest lizard is the Komodo dragon which grows over 3 m long and weighs over 100 kg.



## Teeth



The part of the tooth you can see is called the crown. Below this, hidden in the gums, is the tooth's root which fixes the tooth firmly into the jawbone. Most of the tooth is made of a hard material called dentine. The crown is coated with even harder enamel. Inside the root is a cavity filled with pulp

consisting of blood vessels and nerve fibres. Babies are born with no teeth showing, but with two sets of tooth buds hidden in their gums. The first teeth, the milk teeth, appear during the first five years, and then are replaced by the permanent teeth.

## Ch

## Churchill, Sir Winston

Winston Churchill was born in 1874. As a young man he became a soldier, then a war reporter in the Boer War, and finally a politician. Before World War I he was a minister in the Liberal government, but later he joined the Conservatives.

In the 1930s he warned people about the dangers of another war. War came, and he was made prime minister in 1940. He inspired the British people to carry on to victory. After the war, he stayed in politics until 1964, the year before he died.



## Questions/instructions

% responses

Use the Oxford Children's Book of Knowledge to find your answers.

y4



## 1. Penguins

How long can Emperor penguins stay under the water?

Answer:  minutes 9✓ 50



## 2. Foxes

How fast can a fox run?

Answer:  km/h 48✓ 59

3. Lions live in groups called Prides✓ 66

## 4. One of these teeth is a molar.

Draw a ring around the molar.



✓ 56

## 5. When was Sir Winston Churchill born?

1874✓ 24

Number correct: 5 13

4 19

3 22

2 15

1 17

0 14

## Commentary

About one third of the year 4 students got 4 or 5 questions right, while 14 percent got none right. Students could ask for help with reading, but limited reading skills make the use of such a reference book very difficult even if someone is available to read selected passages.