

LEARNING TIME

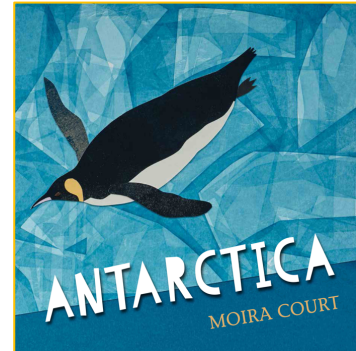
Antartica

By Moira Court

Published by Fremantle

Antarctica – an icy desert with mountain ranges and sleeping volcanoes, home to the spinning end of the earth and an array of quirky creatures.

Moira Court brings the diversity of Antarctica to life in this gorgeous new picture book, combining clever counting with lyrical prose and stunning artwork.



Themes: Australia, Animals, Rhyme

Rare and interesting words/concepts: cumbersome, courtly, portly, crimson, vermillion

Key Message for Parents | Children's wellbeing is critical to brain development and learning

- Children learn best when they feel emotionally supported, through actively listening to them, validating them – 'You said you feel scared', and responding appropriately.
- Play is critical to young children's social, emotional, and intellectual development.
- Provide opportunities to explore in non-structured ways. As often as possible to allow children to take the lead in their play.
- Allow lots of opportunity to try new things, visit new places and meet new people.
- Reward efforts and let the child lead the pace.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | OUTCOME 5: CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

Educators can support children's learning through:

- reading and sharing a range of books and other texts with them.
- talking explicitly about concepts such as rhyme and letters and sounds when sharing texts with children.
- providing a safe, predictable, and welcoming environment where the child is supported.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

K-4 English K-4 Biological Sciences K-4 Geography K-4 History

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



You may like to introduce the book at this stage or use a song to help prepare your group and introduce the upcoming story and activities.

Song

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I caught a fish alive

*One, two, three, four, five,
Once I caught a fish alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let it go again.*

*Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on the right.*

Check out our Spotify channel for more great song ideas.





Before Reading

- Greet families and children warmly, ask them how they are, await their responses and acknowledge them.
- Explain the format of the session, including the book you are reading, songs and activities. You may want to use a visual board to support diverse language and learning needs.
- Ask the children to sit where they can see the pictures, as you will need them to watch closely!

During Reading

- Introduce the name of the book, note that the author is also the illustrator.
- Have a look at the endpapers and discuss what the children think may happen in the book.
- Notice the descriptive words and explain where required.
- Be intrigued and model engagement with the text, through looking interested in what children discover and checking they are following along.
- This book allows opportunities for the audience to consider different habitats and animals that might live there.

After Reading

- Rhyme: How many rhyming pairs can you find in the story? e.g. freckled speckled; inky slinky. Does rhyme make the story more fun to read aloud? Create your own rhyming pairs.
- Alliteration: What is alliteration? Find examples in the book, e.g. polar plains; watery world. Try to make your own examples with the children.
- Provide sufficient time for children to express their experiences and thoughts. Communication skills include turn taking, eye contact, voice and expression, respectful responses, timing, explaining, and listening. These all need time to be practiced as a part of the literacy journey.

Extension Ideas

Read

- Visit the Raising Literacy Australia website and find more book recommendations under Featured Stories. You can search by theme – Feelings.
- Borrow books about feelings from the library. Share non-fiction books to gather lots of facts. Many books are also freely available via library subscriptions such as Libby and StoryBox Library for read aloud – making books accessible from home or when you are out and about. Ask your local library.
- Visit a new place and explore the brochures, signs and signage.

Useful Websites

Author's website:

<https://moiracourt.wordpress.com>

Australian Antarctic Division – Classroom Antarctica:

<https://classroom.antarctica.gov.au>

Sing

- Singing slows down language, enabling sounds to be heard more easily. Phonemic awareness knowledge (sounds) is a foundation to literacy competency.
- Spotify and YouTube have a huge variety of songs. We have a Spotify Playlist 'Raising Literacy Australia' – Featured Stories
- Adapt your own songs from well-known tunes and your own made up words.



Talk

Discussion questions

- What do the adjectives 'unique' or 'quirky' mean?
- What is an 'adaptation'? How do adaptations such as 'special blood and fat and feathers' help each creature to survive the harsh polar climate? (Hint: read the Did You Know? section at the back of the book!)
- How many animals can you count on each page? In the entire book?
- What do you think it is like in Antarctica?
- Do you think you would like to visit Antarctica one day? Why/why not?



Play

- Draw a picture of Antarctic animals.
- Use toys to act out scenarios where the children become those animals.
- Use puppet play or animal props.
- Create a 'small world' provocation to invite discovery and conversation.

STEM Focus. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Make a diorama

You will need:

- A box (like a shoe box)
- Cotton wool or tissues
- White paper
- Blue markers or pencils
- Animals (or drawings/printout animals)
- Scissors
- Glue

What to do

1. Colour the blue parts for sea and sky.
2. Cut shapes for icebergs or cliffs.
3. Glue cotton or white parts for snow or ice.
4. Add animals into the scene.
5. Talk and play with the diorama!



Science: Studying habits and animals

Maths: Measuring and calculating

Engineering: Designing and using tools

Technology: Documenting with photos, creating a video.

Language: Talking about animals, what makes them unique, their feathers, fat or special qualities for survival. Describe the landscape, habitat, weather conditions.

For more ideas

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/mackinga2/antarctica-diorama-shoe-box/>

Destination World: Nat Geo Kids S1 E7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3uT89xoKuc>

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. Raising Literacy Australia suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

Libraries can purchase bulk copies of our books at discounted rates. Visit Little Book Press:

littlebookpress.com.au

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Somewhere In Australia** by Marcello Pennacchio, Danny Snell (Illustrator)
- **Splash** by Alison Lester
- **Our Birds** by Nilimurrungu Wayin Malanyinha
- **Fabulous Fishes** by Susan Stockdale

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) or your choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (OR: to our friends.....)!

