

## Teaching Notes: *Pip Finds A Home*

Written and Illustrated by Elena

Topouzoglou

Published by New Frontier Publishing



### SYNOPSIS

When an explorer finds Pip in the North Pole, she takes him to the South Pole so he can be with the other penguins. Pip makes friends with lots of different penguins, but Pip isn't an Adelie penguin or a Macaroni penguin, a Gentoo penguin or even an Emperor penguin. Is Pip really a penguin? And is the South Pole really where Pip belongs?

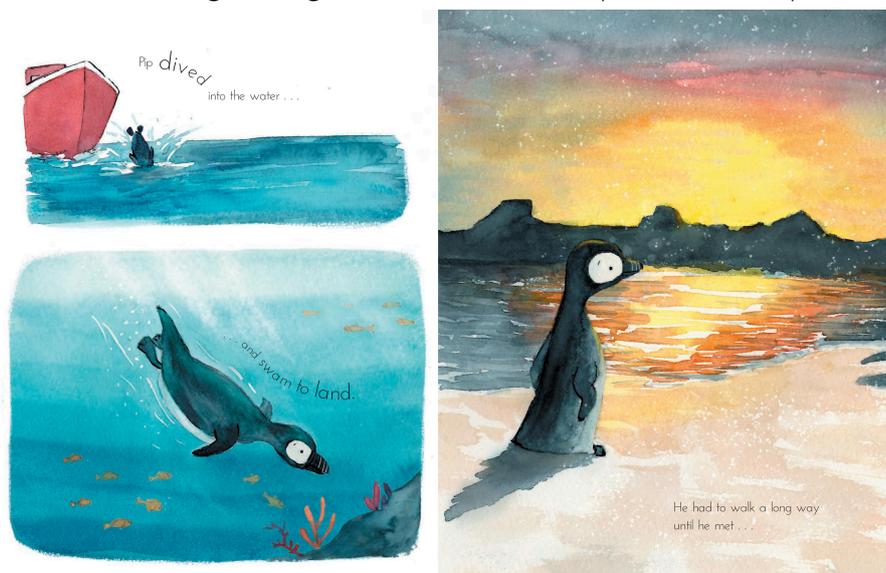
### AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

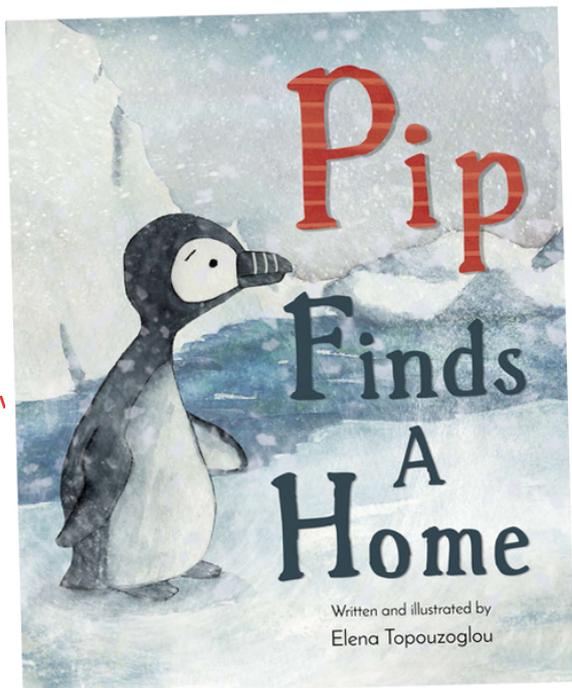
Elena Topouzoglou is an author and illustrator originally from Greece, who now resides in London with her husband and two young kids. After graduating from a BA in Film and Animation, she worked as a Visual Effects Compositor for ten years. During this time, she worked on the Oscar-winning movies *Gravity* and *Hugo* and many other well-known films such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Paddington Bear* and *Harry Potter*.

Her love for books and drawing, alongside the influence of her sons' love for children's books led her to study and graduate with an MA in children's book illustration from Middlesex University. She works mainly with watercolour, ink, screen printing and finishes the artwork digitally. Elena is passionate about penguins, picture books and films.

### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

*Pip Finds a Home* is perfect for teaching children about different species of penguin (as well as the Great Auk) and their distinguishing features. It is also a gentle introduction to the idea of certain animals and birds being endangered and the need to protect these species.



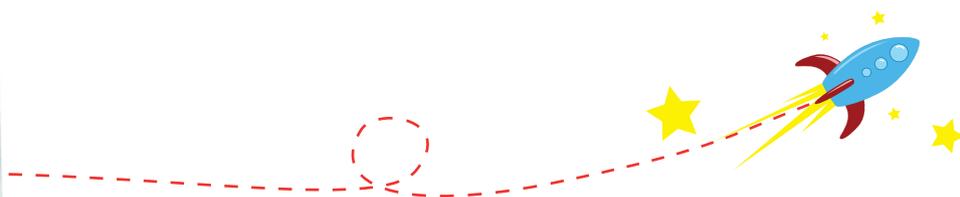


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### DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading the book:

1. Show the children the cover illustration and ask what they think might happen in the story.
2. Do the children think being an explorer would be fun? Would they like to be explorers when they grow up?
3. Do they know anything about the North and South Pole?
4. What do they think it would be like to live in the North or South Pole?
5. Did the children know that there were different types of penguin? Have they seen any of the penguins from the book in real life? Have they heard of any other types of penguin?
6. Did they notice Pip's expression change when he was playing with the penguins?
7. Have they ever heard of a Great Auk?
8. Have they ever seen a Little Auk? Explain that the Little Auk can still be found in the UK around wintertime.

After reading the book:

1. Did the children like the story? What was their favourite part of the story and why?
2. Do they have a favourite character (or favourite penguin)?
3. Do the children know what the word 'extinct' means? How does it make them feel knowing that the Great Auk went extinct?
4. Do they know about any other birds or animals that are now extinct or that are endangered?
5. Do they think that people should protect creatures that are in danger of going extinct?



## ACTIVITIES

### Craft Stick Snowflake Ornament

#### What You Need

- craft sticks
- buttons/glitter glue/jewel stickers
- glue – kids can use a low heat glue gun
- twine or string for hanging

#### Instructions

You can either go with natural wood craft sticks or get the pre-coloured ones. You can match the button/glitter glue/jewel sticker colours or go for contrasts.

If you choose natural wood, first colour the craft sticks and let them dry.

Lay your sticks onto a flat surface making a star shape. Glue them together.

Apply buttons/glitter glue/jewel stickers or a combination of the three onto your sticks.

Cut a piece of twine or string and glue it to the back of your stick to hang. All done!

Your snowflake might look like the one below but remember that results can vary vastly depending on your colour and decoration choices.



Credit to The Best Ideas for Kids  
<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/popsicle-stick-snowflake-ornaments/>

## Icicle Bunting

What You Need:

Kitchen Towel  
Watercolour paints in icy shades (blues, silver, lilac)  
Droppers or paintbrushes  
Yarn or ribbon

Instructions

Water down the paints so that they are very runny.

Drop the paint onto a sheet of kitchen towel and watch the colours run and mix.

When you have painted as many sheets of kitchen roll as you would like, leave them to dry completely.

Cut triangles out of the dry kitchen roll sheets.

Use a hole punch to create a hole in each icicle.

Thread the icicles onto yarn or ribbon and then hang them up.

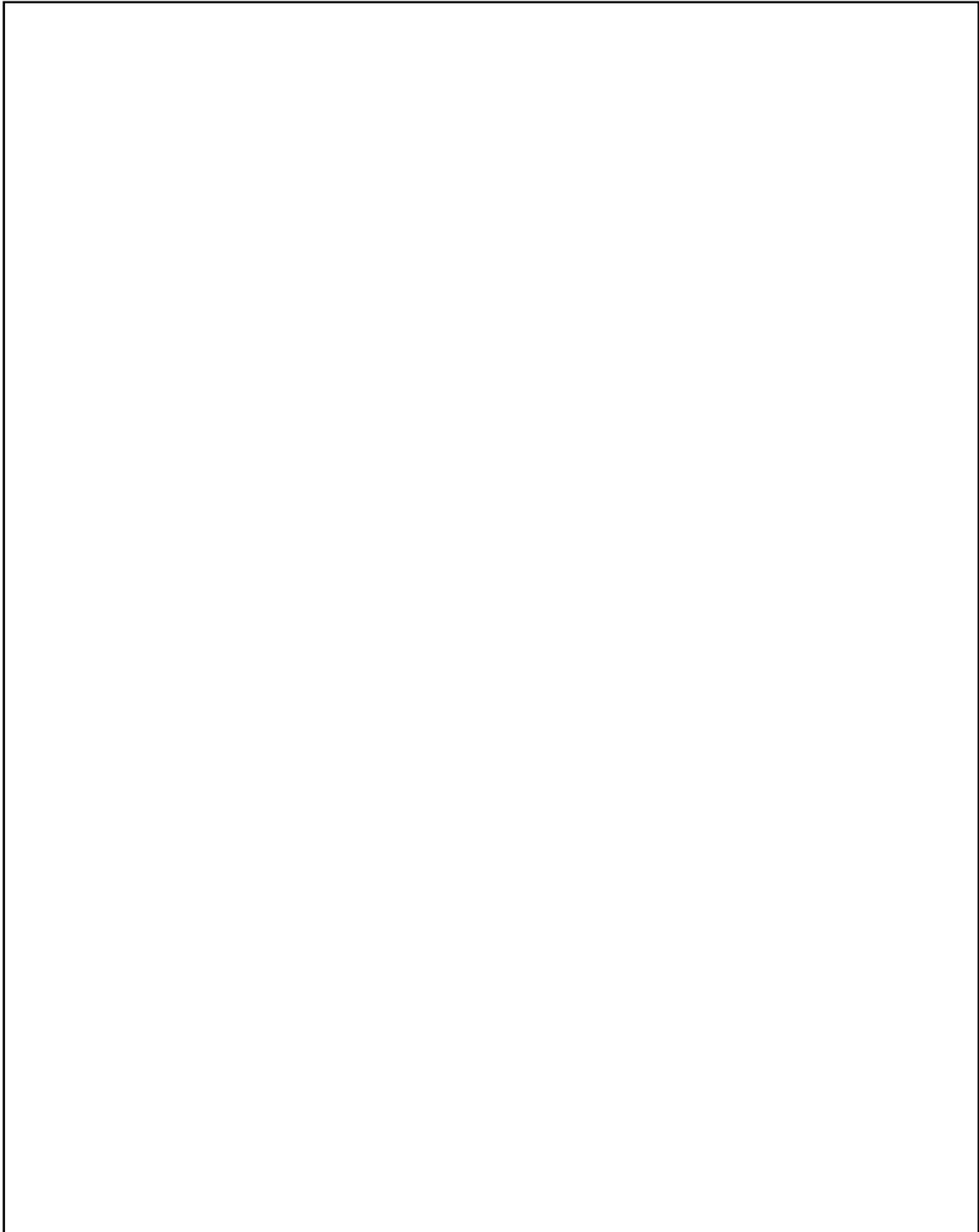
The finished product should look like this:



Credit to Activity Village  
<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/icicle-bunting>

## DRAWING ACTIVITY

Create some of your own penguin characters to play with Pip and his friends. They could be a Rockhopper penguin, a King penguin or a Little Blue penguin or any other type of penguin. Show the children this website to familiarise them with the different types of penguin. <http://www.penguinworld.com/types/>



# MAZE

Help Pip make the journey from the North Pole to find his penguin friends in the South Pole.

