

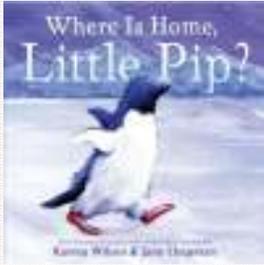
# Theme 4: My Home

## Additional Books:

### Fiction:

#### Where is Home, Little Pip?

by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman



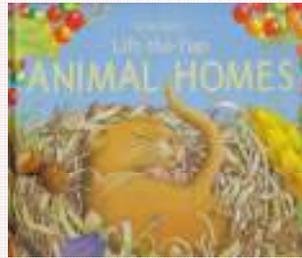
Mama and Papa penguin always tell Little Pip not to wander far from home. But one day, Little Pip chases a feather until she catches it, and then realizes that she doesn't know her way home! Little Pip asks a whale, a seagull, and some dogs to tell her where home is. They all tell her where their home is, which doesn't help Little Pip at all. When she begins to sing a song her mama

and papa always sing, she finds her way home!

### Non-Fiction:

#### Animal Homes

by Debbie Martin



This book is about various animals and what their homes are like. Polar bears, chimpanzees, otters and rabbits are just a few of the animals homes illustrated. Each page has a flap that hides "secret" information about the animals. This is a great book for comparing children's homes to various animal homes.

## Ideas for Reading the Book

### Before you read the book...

Have a few pictures of homes as well as the printed word "home" hanging in the circle area so the children can easily see them.

Pretend that you don't remember what you have been talking about this week. Ask the children to remind you. Point to the pictures and ask what they are called. "What does the word spell?"

When they tell you that you have been talking about homes, briefly review what has been discussed. Then ask the children where they think animals live. "Do animals have homes?" "Do they look like the children's homes?"

**Tell them that you are going to read some books and find out!**

### Ideas for *Where is Home, Little Pip?*



**Print the words to the song that Pip's family sings.** (The lyrics are on the other side of this page). The children can see the words to the song as the book is read and then later try to figure out the rhyming words.



**Talk about where Pip lives,** introducing some of the vocabulary words (penguins, whales, Antarctic). Have a map or a globe to show the children where Pip lives and where they live.



**After reading the book,** ask how the whale's home is different from Pip's home. Ask the children how their home is different/similar to the whale's and kelp gull's homes.



**Expand on the difference/similarity idea by reading *Animal Homes*.** Make a list of the similarities and differences.

### Examples of Possible Vocabulary Words

- Penguins • Antarctic • Whales • Kelp gull • Exhausted • Dormouse
- Burrow • Cubs • Otter • Twigs • Entrance • Chimpanzee



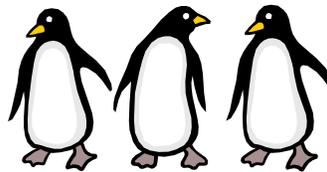
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Make a copy of this page and cut out the lyrics for the children!

## Penguin Song

(from *Where is Home, Little Pip?*)

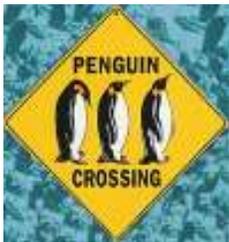
Our home is where the land is free  
from hill or mountain, twig or tree,  
in our pebbly nest by the stormy sea,  
where Mama and Papa and Pip makes three.



## Sample Center Activities

When using any of the ideas listed below, remember to tell children about the activities and show examples of some of the things that they can do at the centers. Talk about how the activities relate to the book.

### Sample: Writing Center



Remind the children about the animal homes in the books *Where is Home, Little Pip* and *Animal Homes*. Ask them what kinds of signs they could make to protect the animal homes (“Stay Away: Otter’s Home”, “Look Out: Penguins Ahead”). Have materials for children to make signs. They might draw pictures of the animals’ homes and make signs on the pictures or make signs for the animal homes in the block center.

### Sample: Block Center



Make animal homes using blocks. Use stuffed animals, toy animals, or pictures of animals to put in the homes. Have materials available for children to label the animal homes and/or use the signs being made in the writing center to protect the animal homes.



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## Sample Center Activities (continued)

### Sample: *Dramatic Play Center*



Provide various materials (stuffed animals, dress up clothes in various materials similar to animal “coats”, medium and large boxes/containers for animal houses, pretend food that animals might eat, etc.) for children to pretend to be different animals in their homes in the *Animal Homes* book.

Talk with the children about which animals they are pretending to be. Play guessing games to try to guess which animals the children are pretending to be.

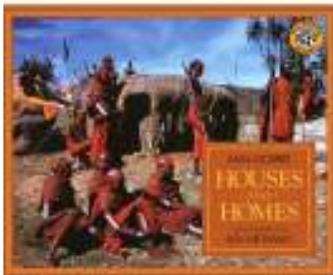
### Sample: *Science Center*

**Make an ant farm (home) using directions on the next page.** You could also purchase an ant farm, but making one will provide great opportunities to have conversations about building a home and the kinds of materials needed.

- Talk about how the ants build their homes.
- Point out all of the tunnels the ants make.
- See if the children think the tunnels are similar to the rooms in their house.
- Talk about how the ants eat, where they get their food, where they sleep and play, and how they work together to get chores done.

**Put books in the science center with pictures of different kinds of homes (human and animal).** Talk about the roofs of homes and how they keep us from getting wet.

- Look at some of the pictures with the children and try to determine what types of materials are used to make different roofs.
- Have materials available to try making different roofs (sticks, straw, shingles, dirt, paper, wood, leaves, twigs). Help children make roofs and then sprinkle water on the roofs (like rain) to see if the roofs keep water out.
- Make a chart with the names of the animal/human homes and roof materials and then check the ones that kept water out and those that did not.



Possible book for the science center:

***Houses and Homes***, by Ann Morris. Photog. Ken Heyman. 1992. HarperCollins. ISBN 0688135781. (Priced at \$6.99)



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## How to Make an Ant Farm:

1. You need to get a clean jar. Mason, jelly and peanut butter jars seem to be the best size for this project.
2. Punch six or seven small holes into the lid and thoroughly wash and dry the jar and lid.
3. Look for an ant hill. Try finding an ant walking around and follow it around if you are having trouble finding an ant hill. After you have located your ant hill you need to make sure that they are not fire ants if they are in your area.
4. Next, get a shovel and dig underneath the ant farm.
5. You first need to locate the queen ant. She will be longer than the other ant and will most likely be surrounded by many ants.
6. Make sure to wear gloves because the other ants will bite to protect their queen.
7. Place the queen and as many other ants as possible into your jar and place the lid on.
8. Wrap dark paper or cloth around the jar to simulate the feeling of being underground.
9. You will need to place food onto the top of the soil periodically. Bread, honey, and sugar will keep your new ant farm humming along nicely.
10. As time progresses you will be able to see the tunnels that the ants are building, see the ants carrying food, and you may be able to see the nursery.



Ants usually designate a dug out "room" as the nursery for the eggs. If you get the queen then it will not be long before your colony will start to outgrow their jar. You can either place them in a larger container or set the jar outside with the lid open and let them roam away.

Instructions taken from [http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/312881/how\\_to\\_make\\_your\\_own\\_ant\\_farm\\_for\\_little.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/312881/how_to_make_your_own_ant_farm_for_little.html).

