

Lesson 29

● 読解力をつけよう

674 Words 目標 8分

◆ 次の英文を読んで、あとの問いに答えなさい。

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On March 3rd last year, a one-year-old penguin ran away from a sea life park in Tokyo. It was later seen near the Rainbow Bridge and in some other places. The keepers worried about the bird day and night. Then, on May 24th, the park got telephone calls from some people. They said that a penguin was swimming near the Gyotoku Bridge over the Edogawa River. The keepers went there in a hurry, and got near the bird very slowly. At last, one keeper caught the bird by hand. ① He said (was / to / very / that / get / he / happy) it back safely. 5

This story was reported in the newspapers, on TV, and on the Internet. People became interested in the penguin. So, after the small penguin was brought back to the park, a lot of people flocked there to see it. Actually, this penguin was just one of the 135 Humboldt penguins which were kept in the sea life park. All over Japan about 3,800 penguins are kept in places like zoos and aquariums. This number is about 25% of the penguins that are kept in the world. And Japan has more penguins in captivity than any other country. 10



Humboldt penguins

15

Penguins cannot fly in the sky, and do not walk fast on land, but in the sea they swim very well. Some of them can swim fifty meters in about six seconds. They swim faster than any other kind of birds. They swim fast to catch small fish and krill, for example. While they are swimming, they will be safe because the colors of penguins — white on the front, and black or gray on the back — are not easy for enemies to see. An enemy swimming below a penguin cannot see it well. When the enemy looks up at it, the white on the penguin's front may blend with the bright sky. An enemy swimming above a penguin cannot see it well, either. When the enemy looks down at it, the dark color on the penguin's ② may blend with the dark sea. 20

How many species of penguins are there in the world? Some researchers say that there are 18 species. Other researchers say there are 17, 19, or 20 species. Many people think that all wild penguins live only in the Antarctic. This is not true. In fact, only one species — the emperor penguin — lives there all the time. The Humboldt penguin lives on the western side of South America. One species lives near the equator — on the Galapagos Islands. Another species lives in South Africa. The smallest species — the blue penguin — lives in Australia and New Zealand. Two species live in the woods in New Zealand. Some other species live on small islands around the Antarctic. 30

What is the largest species of penguins? It is the emperor penguin. It is about 100 to 130 cm long, and weighs around 35 kg. After the female emperor penguin lays an egg, the male penguin warms it. He holds the egg on his feet and covers it with his belly for about 65 days in the cold winter. During that time he eats almost nothing. But he is not alone. He stands very close to many other male penguins with the eggs to warm himself. What is the female penguin doing



emperor penguins

while he is with the egg? She is looking for food in the sea. When the baby bird is born, she returns and takes care of it. Then the father is free and goes to the sea to look for food. 40

Now some species of penguins are almost dying out. Their environment is changing. For example, the temperature is rising, and sea ice is melting. When sea ice disappears, it is hard for krill to live. So, the number of krill is going down. This means that there is ③ food for penguins. In some areas the number of penguins has dropped to about 20%. If the rising of the global temperature cannot be stopped, some species may die out. We have to do something to protect them. 45

注 keeper 飼育員 in a hurry 急いで flock (大勢が)集まる aquarium 水族館
in captivity 飼育されて second 秒 krill オキアミ enemy 敵 blend with ~ ~に溶け込む
species 種 researcher 研究者 the Antarctic 南極地方 equator 赤道
weigh ~ ~の重さがある female メスの lay 産む male オスの belly おなか
die out 絶滅する

内容を確認しよう

◇本文の内容にあっているものには○, あっていないものには×と答えなさい。

- ア The penguin which ran away from the sea life park got back there in the beginning of March. ()
- イ Many people went to the sea life park because they wanted to see the penguin that came back. ()
- ウ Some researchers say that there are eighty species of penguins in the world. ()
- エ Male emperor penguins warm the eggs for about three months without eating almost anything. ()
- オ About 80% of the penguins have disappeared in some areas. ()

入試問題を解こう

目標 4 分

問1 下線部①の()内の語を, 意味が通るように並べかえて書きなさい。

He said _____ it back safely.

問2 ②の の中に, 本文の流れにあうように, 本文から単語1語を抜き出して答えなさい。

問3 ③の に適する語をア~エから選び, 記号で答えなさい。

ア large

イ less

ウ more

エ small ()

問4 本文の内容にあうように, 次の質問にそれぞれ6語以上10語以内の英語で答えなさい。ただし, 「,」や「.」などは語数に含めません。

(1) Where do wild blue penguins live?

(2) What does the male emperor penguin do when the female penguin comes back to take care of the baby bird?
