

TED TALKS TUESDAY



“The Great Penguin Rescue” by Dyan deNapoli

Sample Outline:

Goal of Talk: To disprove the statement that all oiled penguins should be euthanized

June 23, 2000: *Treasure* sank off of South Africa. 20,000 penguins oiled

June 20, 1994: *Apollo Sea* sank. 10,000 penguins were oiled. Half died.

The Scene at the Rescue Center:

- Eerily silent
- Many volunteers: 1000 people/day to rescue center; 12,500 throughout the whole rescue. Awe-inspiring!
- Room 2: 5000 penguins. Could they pull it off?
- Penguins gave many injuries due to their razor-sharp beaks.

New Crisis: Oil slick moving north (Dassen Island)

- Shipped penguins 500 miles up coast (Port Elizabeth) and let them swim home
- The oil was cleaned up by the time they got home! This strategy can be used in future oil spills

Lessons in Wildlife Rescue:

- Learned to use better ventilated transport boxes in 1994. So during the *Treasure* rescue, they were prepared and only 160 penguins died (as opposed to 5000)
- Volunteers trained penguins how to take fish freely using their hands. First penguins to learn free feeding: Had been through *Apollo Sea* spill previously

Cleaning penguins:

- Took 2 people 1 hour
- 17-year-old invented “degreaser.” Part-way through, they ran out, so he made more. Helped save thousands of animals.

Outcomes:

- More than 90% of penguins successfully returned to the wild!!
- They have lived just as long and bred just about as successfully
- More hand-raised chicks survived to adulthood

Lessons Learned:

- Capable of handling more than I thought possible
- One person can make a difference
- Work as one: We can achieve extraordinary things
- It’s rewarding to be part of something bigger than yourself

Endangered species:

- Penguins are an indicator species, meaning if penguins are dying, oceans are dying
- Factors that can improve: Overfishing and global warming.

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Comprehension Questions:

Yes/No

1. Were 1000 penguins oiled during the Treasure oil spill? (no)
2. Did 12,500 volunteers help during the penguin rescue? (yes)
3. Did penguins survive due to using better ventilated boxes? (yes)
4. Was the inventor of the “degreaser” 15 years old? (no)
5. Did the Apollo oil spill happen after the Treasure oil spill? (no)
6. Did 90% of the penguins survive during the Treasure rescue? (yes)
7. Did the speaker say that she learned she worked best by herself? (no)
8. Does global warming affect penguins as an endangered species? (yes)
9. Did penguins from previous oil spills learn to take fish from the volunteers most quickly? (yes)
10. What would the speaker answer to this question: Should all oiled penguins be euthanized? (no)

Open-Ended

1. How many penguins were oiled during the Treasure oil spill?
2. How many volunteers helped during the penguin rescue?
3. What was one strategy they learned that helped the penguins survive?
4. How old was the person who invented the “degreaser”?
5. What date did the Apollo oil spill occur?
6. How many of the penguins survived during the Treasure rescue?
7. What are 2 lessons the speaker said she learned?
8. What is one factor that could impact penguins as an endangered species?
9. What penguins learned to take fish from the volunteers most quickly?
10. What would the speaker answer to this question: Should all oiled penguins be euthanized?