

Pablo's Bad Day



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CREDITS

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Pablo Pelican was having a bad day. He had not caught any fish. He was tired. He was hungry. It was beginning to rain.



"There has to be an easier way to get fish," said Pablo. "I know! I'll do what people do. I'll go and get fish at the fish market!"



The next day Pablo started out early and flew into town. It felt strange to be on a sidewalk. He wasn't sure how to find the fish market.



"There's a big map!" said Pablo. "I can't read. But I see a picture of a fish next to an arrow. It must point to the fish market!"



Pablo hurried off to the market. He looked around. People were talking and laughing. It was a very busy place!



Pablo noticed fishing boats tied up at the dock just behind the fish market.



A fisherman came up on the dock with a huge fish. Pablo was excited. The fish smelled delicious!



The fisherman washed off the fish with a hose. "Why doesn't he just eat that yummy fish before it gets away?" wondered Pablo.



Another man put the clean fish up on a table. Then he cut it into big juicy pieces for the people who came to buy.



"How can I get some fish?" Pablo asked himself. Then he saw a man put some fish scraps to one side. "Maybe that's for me!"



But it would not be easy to get those fish scraps. Many other pelicans were waiting for a treat. Pablo saw hungry gulls, too.



He also saw a big frigate bird perched on a rope overhead. Pablo thought, "I'll have to move fast to get ahead of those other birds."



When the man threw the fish scraps, all the pelicans ran, squawked and flapped to be first in line. Their webbed feet slapped on the wet concrete. Pablo threw himself into the struggle with all his might!



He got pushed and bumped and had his feathers ruffled, but he got a nice big piece of fish! Pablo ran off to the dock to enjoy his treat.



Then his real troubles began. The frigate birds swooped down, trying to steal his fish. While he pecked at them, the gulls tried to sneak past him and grab his meal.



Poor Pablo! He wore himself out fighting to keep his fish scrap. Frigate birds and gulls kept taking bites. Pablo only got a small piece for himself.



Pablo ended his day almost as hungry as when he started. He rested before he flew home. "Getting fish from a market isn't so easy after all!" Pablo said sadly.



When Pablo awoke early next morning, the sun was out. The water was green and sparkly. Pablo felt happy. "This is a perfect day to go fishing!" he said. And that's just what he did.



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Pablo's Bad Day is the anchor book for the **Pablo Pelican** activity set, which includes the supporting book **Pelican Facts**, comprehension tests, a photo collection, and a printable pelican to fold. If you don't have the complete set, you can download it free from Annie's Resource Attic. Photos, text, and story concept are by Ann Brundige. The photos were taken while on a Galapagos Islands trip in the fish market at Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island, near the beach at Post Office Bay on Floreanna Island, and from a zodiac while approaching Cerro Brujo on Cristobal Island.