

Penguins

Penguins live in both hot and cold places in the Southern Hemisphere, the bottom half of the world, below the equator. They have wings but they can not fly, so they use them as flippers. There are 17 different species of penguin.

All penguins forage for food in the sea. They have spines in their mouths to stop their prey (fish, squid and krill) from swimming away.

Baby penguins are called chicks, born with very fluffy feathers and unable to go into the water until they have grown their adult feathers. The parents hunt for food, swallow it down and then bring it back up to feed to their chicks.



Yellow-eyed Penguin

This type of penguin can be found in New Zealand and has a band of yellow feathers on its head as well as yellow eyes. The Yellow-eyed penguin prefers to eat fish but will also eat cephalopods. They are different to many other species of penguin because they nest alone (instead of in huge groups) in thick forest, usually at the foot of a tree.



King Penguin

This penguin species is the second largest. They have orange cheeks and look similar to Emperor penguins. King penguins do not make a nest, instead the female lays a single egg which the male keeps warm in a pouch in his belly and balances it on his feet. They live around the edges of Antarctica and live on a diet of mainly lanternfish and squid.



Rockhopper Penguin

There are three types of Rockhopper Penguin: Northern Rockhopper, Eastern Rockhopper and Southern Rockhopper. There are very tiny differences between them and so they are classed as one species. They live in cold places and have red eyes, an orange beak and yellow spiky feathers on their head. Rockhoppers make a nest with pebbles and peat and lay two eggs. The second is normally stronger than the first.



Galapagos Penguin

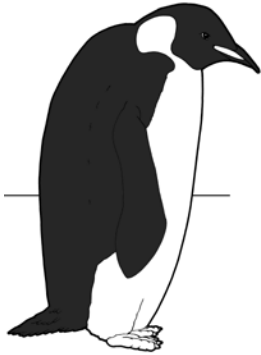
This penguin is the only penguin to breed near the equator. They feed on small fish like sardines. The Galapagos penguin lays its eggs in crevices, caves or a burrow to protect them from getting too much heat from the sun. There are only 1000 breeding pairs of these penguins and they are at risk of extinction.



Chinstrap Penguin

Chinstrap penguins have a black line across their cheeks that looks like a chinstrap. They mostly eat krill but sometimes they eat fish. These penguins live in cold places. Chinstrap males build a nest with pebbles and the female lays two eggs. The parents take turns to look after the eggs.

Emperor Penguin



This is the largest species of penguin. It has patches of yellow on its ears and breast. They live in Antarctica and catch fish from the sea to eat. They do not build a nest. Instead, the male penguin holds the egg in a pouch in its belly. After the chicks have hatched, baby penguins stand on the feet of its father so that they do not get cold.

Little Penguin



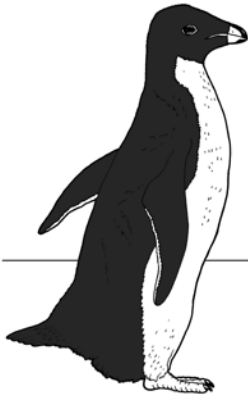
This is the smallest penguin and is sometimes called a Blue Penguin. It lives in Australia and New Zealand. They usually make a hole in the ground to lay their eggs and then the male and female take it in turns to look after them. Sometimes they nest under beach houses.

African Penguin



These penguins live in Africa. The African Penguin has a black band on its white breast and patches of skin on its face. The skin helps the penguin to cool down when it gets too hot. To lay its eggs, it burrows into the ground or lays them in rock crevices or under shrubs. This species eats a lot of anchovies.

Adelie Penguin



This species has a long tail that drags along the ground and white around its eyes. The female penguin lays her eggs in a nest that she makes with pebbles and moss. The Adelie penguins often fight over these small stones and steal them from each other. The male keeps the eggs warm and then the female goes to hunt for food, then they swap jobs.

Humboldt Penguin



This species is sometimes called a Peruvian Penguin. They are a medium-sized penguin that live in South America. It has patches of skin on its face to help it cool down and it has a black bill. It digs into the guano (bird poo) or the ground to lay its eggs. Sometimes it uses caves.

Snares Penguin



They live on an island called Snares Island in New Zealand. It has a yellow crest on its face and red eyes. The female penguin lays two eggs in a nest. The first one is a lot smaller than the second one. The second egg hatches a much bigger penguin that is better at surviving.

Fiordland Penguin



The Fiordland penguin has a yellow stripe which extends from above the eye and drops in a plume. They nest in the rainforest on the Fiordland Island coast in New Zealand; in caves, at the foot of trees or in thick undergrowth. The female lays two eggs. The first egg usually hatches after the first, is much weaker and most of the time does not survive.

Gentoo Penguin



This species has a white patch around its eye joined to a white stripe that joins at the top of its head. It mainly feeds on krill that it forages for close to the shore on sub-Antarctic islands. They build nests with pebbles, often fighting over the best pebbles for nest building, and the female lays two eggs. This species is the third largest penguin.

Erect-crested Penguin



Erect-crested penguins have yellow plumes that stand upright (erect). When the plumes are wet, they drop down, making it difficult to identify them. The female usually lays her two eggs straight onto bare rock. This penguin species is found in New Zealand and little is known about its diet, although studies have shown that it eats squid.

Penguins

Complete this table with ✓.

Type of Penguin	Builds a Nest	Lives in a cold place	Lives in a hot place	Digs a hole for a nest	Balances baby/egg on its feet	Red Eyes	Yellow Crest	Skin on its face	Lays two eggs
Emperor									
Snares									
Adelie									
Little									
African									
Humboldt									
Yellow-eyed									
Rockhopper									
Chinstrap									
King									
Galapagos									
Fiordland									
Gentoo									
Erect-crested									

Why has the writer put the information in boxes?

What do penguins use their wings for?

Do you think all penguins lay eggs?

Why do you think Emperor penguins do not build a nest?

Which two penguins are the most similar?

Why do you think the Humboldt penguin is sometimes called a Peruvian penguin?

Why do you think chicks feathers are unsuitable for the water?

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Emperor		✓			✓				
Snares	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Adelie	✓	✓							
Little			✓	✓					
African			✓	✓				✓	
Humboldt			✓	✓				✓	
Yellow-eyed			✓						
Rockhopper	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
Chinstrap	✓	✓							✓
King		✓			✓				
Galapagos			✓	✓					
Fiordland			✓				✓		✓
Gentoo	✓	✓							✓
Erect-crested			✓				✓		✓

Why has the writer put the information in boxes? **To make it easier to read.**

What do penguins use their wings for? **Swimming**

Do you think all penguins lay eggs? **Yes, they are birds.**

Why do you think Emperor penguins do not build a nest? **Because they lay their eggs where there is snow all around and it would be too cold.**

Which two penguins are the most similar? **Humboldt and African.**

Why do you think the Humboldt penguin is sometimes called a Peruvian penguin? **They can be found in Peru.**

Why do you think chicks feathers are unsuitable for the water? **They are not waterproof.**