

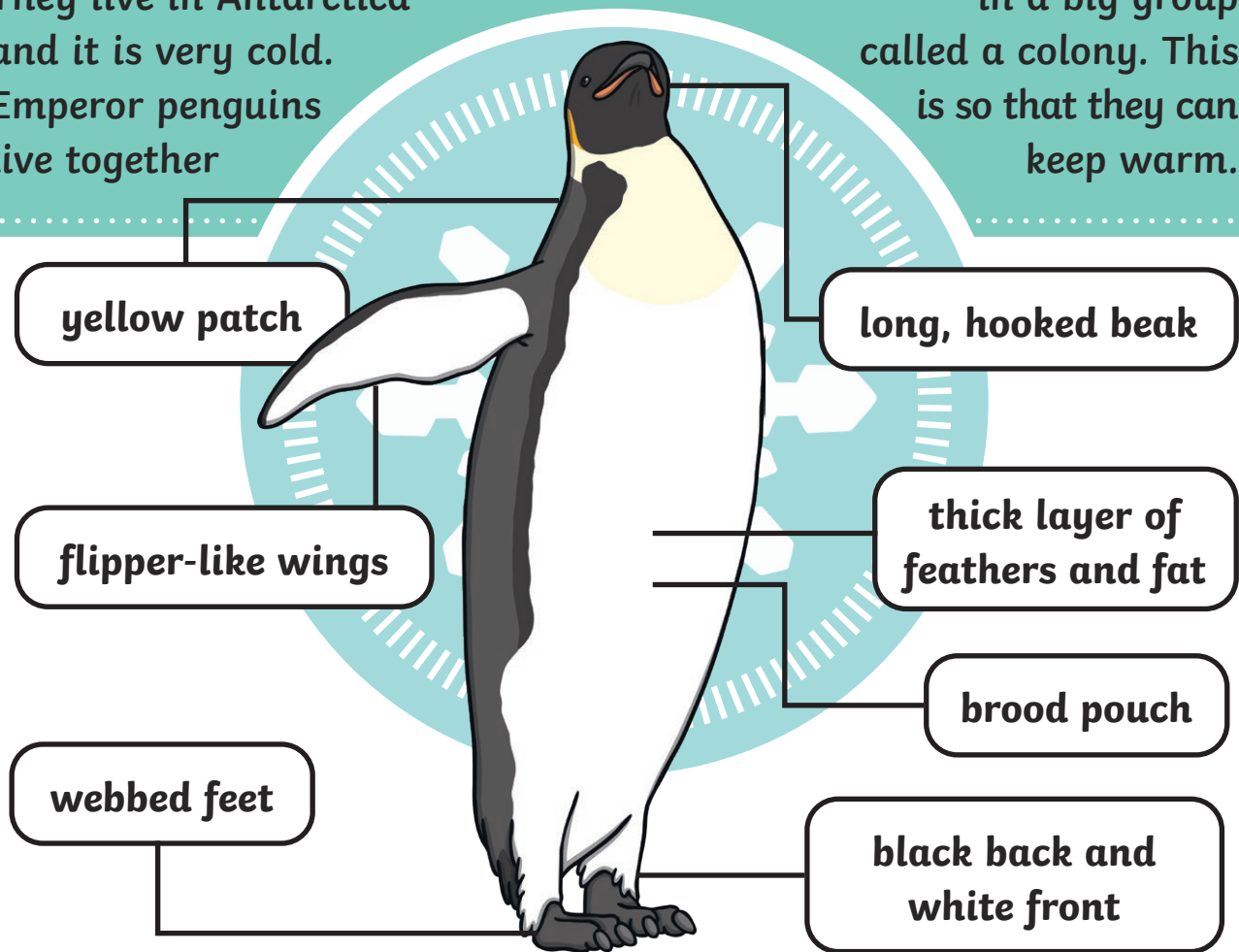
The Emperor Penguin

The emperor penguin is the largest penguin in the world.
Penguins are birds but they cannot fly. They use their wings to help them swim.

Habitat

They live in Antarctica and it is very cold. Emperor penguins live together

in a big group called a colony. This is so that they can keep warm.



Did You Know...?

- The female lays an egg and passes it to the male. He keeps it warm all winter in his brood pouch.
- Adults can grow up to 130cm.
- They can swim underwater for up to 22 minutes.



Life Cycle

1 Egg Laying

The female lays one egg in May. It uses up a lot of her energy.

She carefully passes it to the male and returns to the ocean.

2 Incubation

The male keeps the egg warm through the winter in his brood pouch on top of his feet. In July, the female returns from hunting to feed the chick food from her tummy.

3 Moulting

The chicks lose their soft, fluffy, down feathers and grow sleek, waterproof ones. This is called moulting.

4 Fledging

By December, the sea ice has melted and the chicks leave the colony and waddle along the ice to the sea.

5 Breeding

The young penguins return when they are about five years old. In April, the penguins find a mate.

