

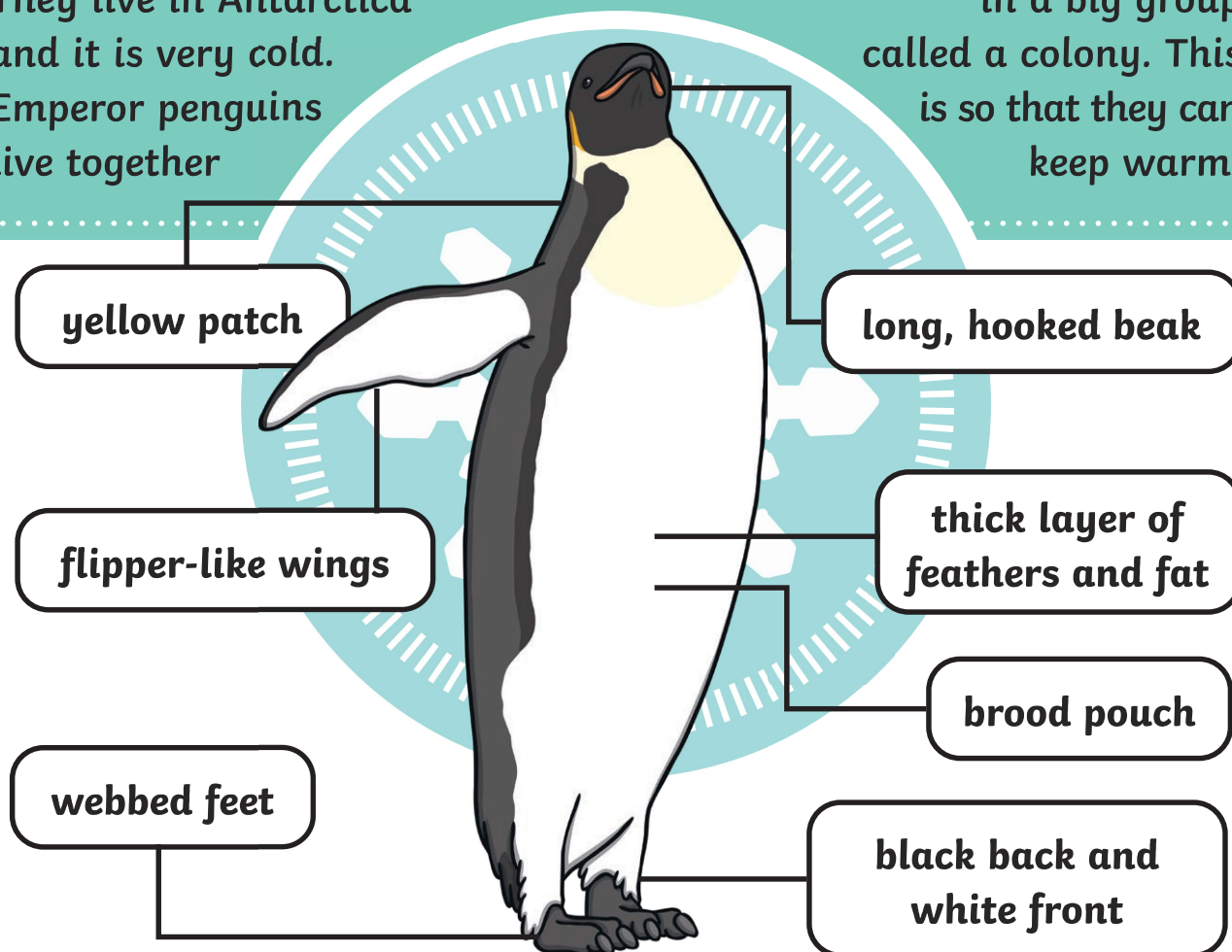
The Emperor Penguin

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

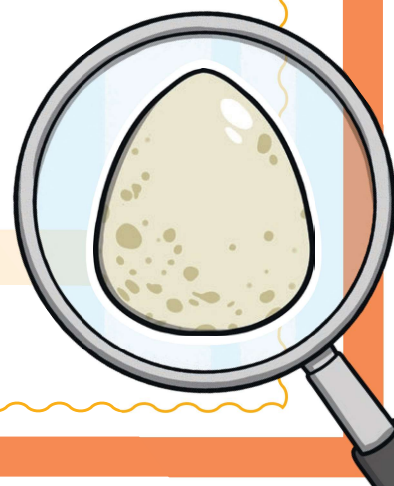
They live in Antarctica and it is very cold. Emperor penguins live together

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.



The Emperor Penguin

The emperor penguin is the largest of the 17 types of penguin. Penguins are birds but they cannot fly. Their flipper-like wings and webbed feet help them to swim well instead.



Habitat

Emperor penguins live in the coldest place on Earth. It is called Antarctica. They survive because they have a thick layer of feathers and fat to keep them warm. They stand together in a huge group called a huddle when it is very cold.

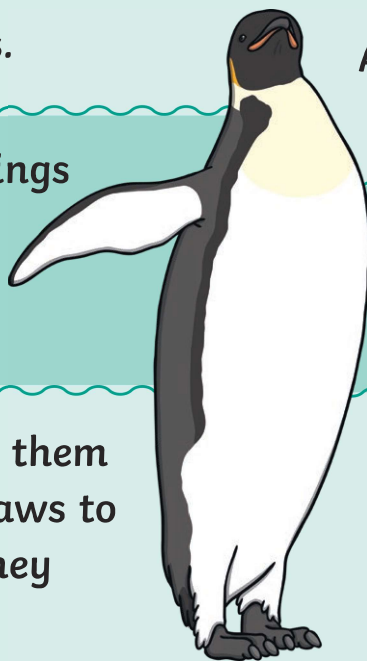
Body

The adult emperor penguin can grow to about 130cm tall. That is about the same as a six year old boy or girl! They look similar to the king penguin but they are much taller.

Yellow-gold patches.

Small but strong wings so that they can quickly swim through the water.

Webbed feet to help them swim and strong claws to grip the ice when they shuffle along.



A long, hooked beak to help catch fish, squid and krill.

A thick layer of feathers and fat to keep warm.

The brood pouch. This flap of skin keeps the egg warm.

❄ Did You Know...? ❄

- A group of penguins in the water is called a raft.
- Emperor penguins can swim underwater for up to 22 minutes.

The Emperor Penguin

The emperor penguin is the largest of the 17 species of penguin. Although penguins are birds, they cannot fly.

Instead, their flipper-like wings and webbed feet make them superb swimmers, outstanding divers and skilled at catching fish.

Habitat

Emperor penguins have adapted well to their extreme habitat. They are only found in Antarctica which is the coldest place on Earth. They live in a huge group called a colony.

Did You Know...?

- It is a long, slow walk inland across the ice to the colony. Emperor penguins can waddle up to 120 kilometres or 75 miles.
- The male penguin protects his egg from gale-force winds and extremely cold temperatures. In all this time, he eats nothing.
- Climate change is sadly a big threat to colonies of emperor penguins.

To keep them warm in cold weather, they have a thick layer of insulation made up of feathers called the plumage. This layer of insulation is also made up of fat.

However, this makes it hard for them to move quickly on land. If the weather is bitterly cold, emperor penguins group together in a huddle.

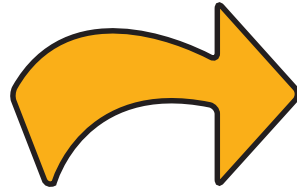


Life Cycle

1 Egg Laying

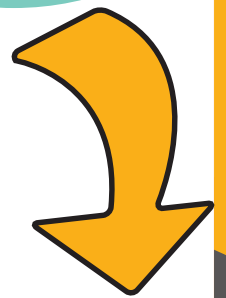
The female lays one egg in May. It uses up a lot of her energy.

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.



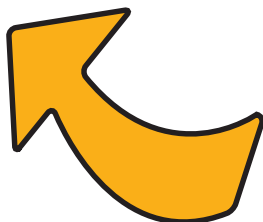
3 Moulting

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.

