

## 1: Penguin (Aptenodytes Forsteri) - Animals - A-Z Animals

*Penguins are torpedo-shaped, flightless birds that live in the southern regions of the Earth. Though many people imagine a small, black-and-white animal when they think of penguins, these birds.*

**African Penguin Classification and Evolution** The African Penguin is a small to medium sized Penguin species that is found along the coast of South Africa and on a number of its surrounding islands. The African Penguin was named for the fact that it is the only species of Penguin that is found breeding on the African Coast, and it is believed to be one of the first Penguin species to be discovered by humans.

**African Penguin Anatomy and Appearance** The African Penguin is a fairly distinctive species of penguin with clean black and white markings and a sharply pointed black beak. The African Penguin also has black feet and a number of dot-like markings flecked across its white chest which are said to be as unique to the individual Penguin as a Human finger print is, along with a narrow black band. The male African Penguin is generally slightly larger than their female counterparts but both are fairly similar in appearance. The hotter the African Penguin gets, the more blood is sent to these glands so it may be cooled by the surrounding air, which in turn, makes these glands more pink.

**African Penguins are most densely distributed** around the cold, nutrient rich waters of the Benguela Current where there is a plentiful supply of food. Although they spend much of their time at sea, African Penguins gather in nesting sites on rocky islands where they spend their days in sheltered burrows to avoid the hot sun. They are one of the only Penguin species to be found in non-freezing conditions and cope with this by burrowing, emerging at dusk and dawn, and using the pink glands above their eyes to cool the blood down.

**African Penguin Behaviour and Lifestyle** Like many other Penguin species, African Penguins are incredibly sociable birds, with adults forming pair bonds that last for life as long as 10 years. African Penguins can often be seen grooming one another, which is not only practical for cleaning purposes, but also for removing parasites and even just rearranging feathers, constantly strengthening the social bond between the pair. Their courtship displays are often very noisy as the male and female Penguin call to each other using a series of donkey-like sounds. African Penguins are also known to submit to a spot of bathing only a few meters from the shore, which they are thought to do quite regularly to both clean and to cool themselves down in the heat.

**African Penguin Reproduction and Life Cycles** African Penguins begin to breed at the average age of four, when a male and female will pair up, and tend to breed together for the rest of their lives. The female African Penguin either digs herself a burrow or finds a dip beneath a rock or bush, in which she lays two eggs. The eggs are incubated by both parents for up to 40 days, when only one of the eggs will usually hatch. They tend to remain with their parents until they are between 3 and 5 months old, when they will leave the colony this is dependant though on the supply and quality of food in the area. The chicks return to the colony after a couple of years to moult into their adult plumage. African Penguins generally live for between 10 and 15 years.

**African Penguin Diet and Prey** The African Penguin is a carnivorous animal that, like all other Penguin species, survives on a diet that is only comprised of marine organisms. The streamlined body of the African Penguin allows it to move through the water like a rocket, capable of reaching a top speed of around 20 kph when hunting for food. African Penguins catch their prey by diving into the ocean depths for around 2 minutes at a time. Their marine predators are primarily Sharks and Cape Fur Seals, but the biggest threat to them on land is not just to the adult Penguins, but more the vulnerable eggs and chicks. Kelp Gulls and Scared Ibises prey on them from the air and Mongooses, Snakes, and Leopards have been observed hunting them on ground. The African Penguin has also been severely affected by Human activity in their native regions, with populations thought to have taken a drastic decline, mainly due to the exploitation of their eggs for food when they were first discovered. They are also severely affected by the disruption of their natural habitats.

**African Penguin Interesting Facts and Features** Penguins have more feathers than any other bird, which act as a waterproof layer keeping their skin dry. African Penguins moult once a year which they do back in their colonies. The whole process lasts for about 20 days, in which time, the African Penguins cannot swim or eat, and can lose almost half of their body weight. African Penguins are known to spend long periods of time fishing out at sea, and depending on the area, can travel between 30 and km in one trip. However, those

African Penguins who have chicks to feed, will rarely go that far, catching food closer to the shore, and as quickly as possible. The African Penguin is also known as the Jackass penguin, due to the donkey-like call that they make during their courtship rituals. African Penguin Relationship with Humans It is widely believed that African Penguins were one of the first Penguin species to come into contact with Humans, due to the fact that they are found on the temperate South African coast rather than in the heart of Antarctica. Today, other threats face the African Penguin including competition for food from commercial fishing and oil pollution in the water. By the 1980s, the African Penguin population had halved, and it had then halved again by

*The penguin is found pretty much only in the Southern Hemisphere, only a handful of penguins though are in the far south. The emperor penguin inhabits the icy lands of [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) what many think, the penguin is not only found in arctics, one species.*

Emperor Penguin *Aptenodytes forsteri* The emperor penguin is the largest of 17 species of penguin at 1. It is also the only animal to inhabit the open ice of Antarctica during the winter. Despite such harsh conditions, emperor penguins spend their entire lives on the ice or in the surrounding waters of Antarctica. To survive in this severely frigid climate, emperor penguins are equipped with several special adaptations. Four layers of scale-like feathers protect them from icy winds and provide a waterproof coat. The penguins can store large amounts of fat which insulates their bodies while also serving as a long-lasting energy source. They have small bills and flippers, which helps to conserve heat, and special nasal chambers that minimize the heat normally emitted through exhalation. Because their arteries and veins are situated close together, emperor penguins have the ability to recycle their own body heat. Emperor penguins are also specially adapted to traveling in this extreme habitat. On the ice masses, they use strong claws on their feet to help grip the surface as they shuffle along. They also slide on their sleek bellies while pushing with their feet. At sea, emperor penguins glide through the water with great speed and agility. Their aerodynamic bodies and strong flippers make them excellent swimmers, reaching speeds of 3. They can dive deeper than any other bird – as deep as 1600 m ft. Every winter which begins in March in Antarctica, emperor penguins traverse up 80 km 50 mi. Males arrive shortly before females, ready to attract a mate with displays and courtship calls. Emperor penguins are monogamous during each breeding season, choosing only one mate. Most will find a new mate the next year, but some pairs choose to reform a bond again. Once the egg is hatched, in May or June, the female will pass the egg to the male to incubate. She will make the long voyage back to the sea to feed on krill, squid, and fish. As there are no nesting supplies available on the ice mass, emperor penguins must create a safe, warm environment for the eggs using their own bodies. Careful to keep the egg sheltered, the male will balance the egg on his feet and cover it with a warm layer of feathered skin called a brood pouch. In the next couple months, the male emperor penguins must cope with the worst weather conditions on earth, all the while eating nothing. To withstand the harsh winds and blizzards, the penguins huddle together in groups. They take turns moving towards the inside of the pack, where it is warmer, thereby sustaining the entire group. Once the females arrive back at the colony, they regurgitate food for the hatchlings to eat. At this time, the males can finally return to sea to fish, and the females will continue care for the chicks. This allows the females to go fish. In December, the weather warms in Antarctica, breaking up the outer ice and bringing the sea closer to the nesting sites. Adult penguins begin their yearly moult once separated from their offspring. They store up body fat beforehand because it takes a lot of energy to replace all their feathers, and they are unable to fish because they lack waterproof protection. By January, the new plumage has grown in, and the hungry penguins take to the waters in groups to forage for the summer. Although emperor penguins are effective hunters, they are also prey to a few Antarctic animals as well. Only a third of the juvenile penguins will make it to their first birthday, falling prey to seabirds like giant petrels or skuas. In the water, both juveniles and adults are eaten by leopard seals and killer whales. They currently have a large range and they live on average years in the wild. However, emperor penguins face several threats due to human activity. Rising temperatures due to global warming will reduce emperor penguin breeding grounds and overfishing will limit their source of food. It is projected that their population will decline rapidly over the next three generations as a result of climate change. IBDV is a highly contagious poultry disease that was most likely brought to Antarctica via humans exposed to infected birds. More studies are currently being conducted to measure the effect of the disease on emperor penguin populations. What You Can Do to Help If you would like to help emperor penguins, you can reduce carbon emissions which lead to global warming. Some measures include walking, biking or taking public transportation instead of driving, using energy saver appliances and light bulbs, buying locally grown produce, reducing your consumption of manufactured goods and packaging, recycling, and more. To learn

more tips, see [StopGlobalWarming](#). You can also donate to charities to help preserve emperor penguin habitat or adopt a penguin through [WWF](#). Emperor Penguin Distribution Emperor penguins spend their entire lives on the ice or in the surrounding waters of Antarctica.

### 3: Penguin | Animal Jam Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

*Penguins (order Sphenisciformes, family Spheniscidae) are a group of aquatic, flightless birds. They live almost exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere, with only one species, the Galapagos penguin, found north of the equator.*

Reproduction Many features of the penguin life cycle vary with body size and geographic distribution; the chronology of breeding may also vary within a species in relation to latitude. The majority of species breed only once each year. Certain species, such as the African penguin *Spheniscus demersus*, probably other members of this genus, and the blue penguin, breed twice a year. The king penguin breeds twice in three years. One egg is laid by the emperor and king penguins; all others lay two or occasionally three. Most penguins begin breeding in the austral southern spring or summer. King penguins are on a 12-month cycle, and the timing of an individual pair depends on the success or failure of the previous breeding attempt. Some populations of the gentoo penguin *Pygoscelis papua* also breed in winter. The breeding of the emperor penguin begins in autumn, apparently timed so that the long developmental period will produce the young in midsummer, when their chances of survival are greatest. In the Crozet Islands off southern Africa, for example, egg laying takes place in July. The two eggs are incubated for 35 or 36 days, and the rearing of the chick takes two months. The last immature birds go to sea in January. Gentoo penguin *Pygoscelis papua* with chicks. Courtship calls are used during pairing and to a lesser degree during the succeeding phases of breeding. There are marked vocal differences between sexes in the emperor penguin and the king penguin and less-marked dimorphisms in some other species. Upon arrival at the colony each bird returns to the nest that it left the previous year and generally rejoins its mate of the previous year, unless the death of the latter forces it to choose another partner. This applies even to the emperor penguin, which is capable of finding its mate despite the absence of a nest and the large size of the colony. The displays that occur with the reassembly of the colony and the finding of mates, as well as those preceding copulation, are quite similar among the majority of species, but the accompanying vocalizations are more diverse. Various species have been described as trumpeting, croaking, cackling, and cooing; members of the genus *Spheniscus* are called jackass penguins for the braying sounds they make. The behaviour of experienced older birds is more elaborate and more effective than that of younger individuals. With the advent of incubation, the bustle and myriad cries that characterized mating give way to quiet and inactivity. Faulty incubation behaviour by inexperienced birds frequently results in the abandonment or breakage of eggs. The mortality rate eggs and chicks is very important at the egg stage, varying from year to year depending on climatic conditions, the percentage of young birds in the reproductive population, and the pressure of predation. In general, mortality eggs and chicks is from 40 to 80 percent of the eggs laid. In coastal colonies predators include, in order of importance: On the Australian, African, and South American continents, the nocturnal habits of certain penguins and the fact that they nest in burrows substantially limit predation, which is mostly by gulls and man. Thereafter, father and mother alternate in periods of a week or two. The female emperor penguin, however, must often walk 80 to km 50 to miles from the colony to the sea and does not return until the end of the incubation period. During the day incubation period, which extends through the height of the Antarctic winter, the male emperor penguin incubates the egg, holding it on his feet and living on stored fat reserves. During violent winter storms, members of the colony gather for mutual protection from wind and cold in tightly packed crowds called huddles. Emergence from the shell takes 24 to 48 hours, during which the brooding parent is particularly irritable. During its early days the young bird is sheltered under the body of one of its parents, who take turns foraging and brooding. In emperor penguin colonies, these unemployed birds often interfere with parents that have young and cause increased mortality. Once this molt is complete, the juvenile leaves the colony to seek its own food at sea. Chinstrap penguin with chick in nest. Adult penguins molt all of their feathers once a year following the breeding period. While in molt the bird is unable to enter the water and instead withdraws to a communal molting site usually situated in a sheltered area away from the colony. The duration of the molt varies from about two weeks in small species to more than a month in the larger ones. Monniaux The principal

enemies of penguins at sea are the leopard seal and the killer whale orca. Seals also take penguins near Australia, New Zealand, and other subantarctic regions. When moving at high speed, they frequently leave the water in leaps that may carry them a metre or more through the air; it is during this time that they breathe. Despite their short legs, however, penguins can run with surprising speed. Some, such as the northern rockhopper *Eudyptes moseleyi*, the southern rockhopper *E. E.* The flippers, along with the beak, are the prime weapons in defense and attack. Scientists have long wondered how penguins are able to find their way back to their colonies from far out at sea, where currents may have carried them great distances. Also perplexing is how they are able to direct themselves correctly on land in the absence of clear-cut landmarks. Studies of penguins transported to the interior of Antarctica have found that they are able to find their way back to the ocean by using the sun as a directional aid. It is probable that the same means of orientation is used at sea. Upon approaching the coast they are able to recognize features of the shoreline and ocean bottom. Food habits The type of food utilized varies with the species, the geographic region, and the time of year. Most of the smaller southern penguins feed primarily upon krill, which attain high densities in the rich, well-oxygenated Antarctic waters. Cephalopods squid and cuttlefish and small fishes may form substantial fractions of the food, and in a few, such as the African penguin, fish is the basic element of the diet. The total weight of food consumed by a large penguin colony is prodigious, often exceeding several tons per day. The feet are located much farther back than those of other birds, with the result that the bird carries itself mostly upright; its walk can thus be described as plantigrade. The sole comprises the whole foot instead of just the toes, as in other birds. The most notable characteristic of the group is the transformation of the forelimb into a paddle. This is accompanied by a body morphology particularly adapted to movement in a liquid medium. The thoracic rib cage is well developed, and the sternum bears a pronounced keel for the attachment of the pectoral muscles, which move the flippers. The flipper has the same skeletal base as the wing of flying birds but with its elements shortened and flattened, producing a relatively rigid limb covered with very short feathers – an ideal organ for rapid propulsion. The body plumage likewise consists of very short feathers, which minimize friction and turbulence. The density of the plumage and the layer of air that it retains provide almost complete insulation of the body. The skin is insulated by a layer of air trapped under the plumage, and the only bare skin in direct contact with the water is that of the feet. In the case of the emperor penguin on land, the feet are in almost constant contact with ice. This is possible because of remarkable anatomical arrangements in the lower limb, whereby closely adjacent arteries and veins form a system of heat exchange between opposing flows of blood. This arrangement permits cooled blood from the feet to absorb heat from outflowing blood, providing maximum economy of heat consistent with the functioning of the foot. Like other seabirds, penguins have salt glands that enable them to ingest salt from seawater. Excess chloride is excreted in the form of a solution the concentration of which is greater than that of seawater. These glands are located above the eyes and are already functional in the young chick, which begins to consume food of marine origin from its first day of life. Recent research has shown that the species most isolated geographically, such as the emperor penguin, can be subject to diseases. Fossil record Evidence from paleontology indicates that the penguins and the order Procellariiformes albatrosses, shearwaters, and petrels had a common origin. Both groups are represented by well-defined fossils dating to about 50 million years ago. The flightless sphenisciform line produced a number of distinctive side branches, all recognizably penguins, some giant in size. All of the fossil remains of penguins have been collected within the zone of the present-day distribution of the Sphenisciformes. Phylogenetic analysis of living and fossil penguins shows that the group evolved a large body size early in its history. For example, two of the largest fossil penguins known – *Icadyptes*, which stood some 1. Living penguins make up a separate lineage characterized by smaller, highly aquatic species that began about 8 million years ago. The comparatively small size of living penguins is thus a geologically recent phenomenon that postdates the original radiation of giant penguins. *Icadyptes salasi* *Icadyptes salasi*, an extinct species of giant penguin. Classification Order Sphenisciformes penguins 18 species in 1 family Spheniscidae with 6 genera found in oceans of the Southern Hemisphere; wings flipperlike for propulsion underwater; webbed feet short and stout; stance upright; feathers short and dense, molted in patches; length 35 – 75 cm 14 – 45 inches; fossil forms to cm 70 inches. Genus *Eudyptes* crested penguins 7 species: Genus *Spheniscus* black-footed, or

jackass, penguins.

### 4: Penguin - Animal Facts and Information

*Penguin Facts and Information Spheniscidae Family Penguin Facts and [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com), habitat, distribution, reproduction, anatomy and more. Facts about King Penguin, Emperor Penguin, Adelie Penguin, Gentoo Penguin and others.*

Family Spheniscidae They also variety a great deal when it comes to their overall size and coloration. The largest is the Emperor Penguin which is about 3 feet, 7 inches tall and weighs anywhere from 60 to 90 pounds. The smallest is the Fairy Penguin and it is about 16 inches tall when fully grown. It is also going to weigh about pounds. The body of a penguin is designed to allow them to move with ease in the water. They also live on land and they are able to walk upright. They rely on their flippers and tail to help them stay balanced. The black and white coloration of penguins has a distinct purpose for protecting them in the water. The dark color makes it harder for them to be noticed by any predators that could be above them. They also feature a white belly, and this helps them to blend in well from below. A predator looking up at them may believe they are just seeing a water reflection rather than a potential meal. Depending on the species of penguin, they could also feature red, yellow, and other colors on their bodies. The larger species are known to dive very deep in the water to find food. Smaller species of penguins also dive, but not to the same depths. They consume krill, crustaceans, fish, and squid. The size and shape of the bill for any given species depends on what their main diet consists of. All species swallow their food whole. They have spiny rear directed elements that help them to easily swallow it. Molting takes place at least once a year for the penguins. This involves them losing old feathers and new ones coming in. The new push out the old so they can look very different during that transition. As the molting process occurs, they will fast and remain on land. They have layers of fat that they survive on until they can return to the water for food. Communication is a big part of life for penguins, and they are the most social species of all birds. They use a variety of vocalizations to attract a mate, to identify their mate, to warn of dangers, and to communicate with mates and their young. Colonies can become very large and noisy. Since they look alike, they use these methods of communication to help them daily. Penguins live in colonies and that helps them to be safe. They may spend time alone hunting or in a given area on land. However, they are collectively part of a very large colony. There is a hierarchy there that can be complex but it works very well for them. At times, the penguins may look silly “twisting and turning their bodies. This is part of the preening process which involves them taking oil from the tail with their bill and spreading it on their features. This ensures that the features remain waterproof and provide them the level of insulation that they require. There are quite a few variables in place for penguins when it comes to mating. The age of maturity can range from 3 to 8 depending on species and location. There also different types of courting and rituals among different species. It is common in many colonies for the same couple to mate each year. The males help to take care of the eggs, to help with feeding and raising the young, and to protect them. They are very hands on but the majority of the caretaking is completed by the females of the colony. Most of the time there is only one egg that a female will lay after mating. The size of the egg depends on the species. When there are two eggs, the second chick will almost always die. There are conservation efforts in place to help protect penguins from harm. This includes securing some of the beach locations where they gather and where they lay their eggs. Keeping the water free from pollution is also very important. They need the social interactions with others to be able to thrive.

### 5: African Penguin (*Spheniscus Demersus*) - Animals - A-Z Animals

*Penguin, (order Sphenisciformes), any of 18 species of flightless marine birds that live only in the Southern Hemisphere. The majority of the 18 species live not in Antarctica but rather between latitudes 45° and 60° S, where they breed on islands.*

Check out our awesome range of animal facts for kids and learn some fun trivia about our friends in the animal kingdom. Fun Penguin Facts for Kids Enjoy our fun penguin facts for kids. Read on to find out what makes penguins unique members of the animal kingdom. Penguins are flightless birds. While other birds have wings for flying, penguins have adapted flippers to help them swim in the water. Most penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. The Galapagos Penguin is the only penguin specie that ventures north of the equator in the wild. No penguins live at the North Pole. Penguins eat a range of fish and other sealife that they catch underwater. Penguins can drink sea water. Penguins spend around half their time in water and the other half on land. The Emperor Penguin is the tallest of all penguin species, reaching as tall as cm 47 in in height. Emperor Penguins can stay underwater for around 20 minutes at a time. Emperor Penguins often huddle together to keep warm in the cold temperatures of Antarctica. King Penguins are the second largest penguin specie. They have four layers of feathers to help keep them warm on the cold subantarctic islands where they breed. Chinstrap Penguins get their name from the thin black band under their head. Crested penguins have yellow crests, as well as red bills and eyes. Yellow eyed penguins or Hoiho are endangered penguins native to New Zealand. Their population is believed to be around Little Blue Penguins are the smallest type of penguin, averaging around 33 cm 13 in in height. The black plumage on their back is hard to see from above, while the white plumage on their front looks like the sun reflecting off the surface of the water when seen from below. Penguins in Antarctica have no land based predators.

### 6: Penguin - Wikipedia

*of over 20, results for "penguin animal" Melissa & Doug Giant Penguin - Lifelike Stuffed Animal (nearly 2 feet tall) by Melissa & Doug and,*

Here are a few fun facts about these adorable tuxedoed birds. All 17 species of penguins are found exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere. Emperor Penguins are the tallest species, standing nearly 4 feet tall. The smallest is the Little Blue Penguin, which is only about 16 inches. The fastest species is the Gentoo Penguin, which can reach swimming speeds up to 22 mph. Fossils place the earliest penguin relative at some 60 million years ago, meaning an ancestor of the birds we see today survived the mass extinction of the dinosaurs. Penguins ingest a lot of seawater while hunting for fish, but a special gland behind their eyes—the supraorbital gland—filters out the saltwater from their blood stream. Penguins excrete it through their beaks, or by sneezing. Unlike most birds—which lose and replace a few feathers at a time—penguins molt all at once, spending two or three weeks land-bound as they undergo what is called the catastrophic molt. All but two species of penguins breed in large colonies of up to a thousand birds. It varies by species, but many penguins will mate with the same member of the opposite sex season after season. Similarly, most species are also loyal to their exact nesting site, often returning to the same rookery in which they were born. Some species create nests for their eggs out of pebbles and loose feathers. Emperor Penguins are an exception: They incubate a single egg each breeding season on the top of their feet. Under a loose fold of skin is a featherless area with a concentration of blood vessels that keeps the egg warm. In some species, it is the male penguin which incubates the eggs while females leave to hunt for weeks at a time. Because of this, pudgy males—with enough fat storage to survive weeks without eating—are most desirable. Penguin parents—both male and female—care for their young for several months until the chicks are strong enough to hunt for food on their own. Despite their lack of visible ears, penguins have excellent hearing and rely on distinct calls to identify their mates when returning to the crowded breeding grounds. They spotted the animals near what was probably Punta Tombo in Argentina. He called them "strange geese. Unlike most sea mammals—which rely on blubber to stay warm—penguins survive because their feathers trap a layer of warm air next to the skin that serves as insulation, especially when they start generating muscular heat by swimming around. In the 16th century, the word penguin actually referred to great auks scientific name: *Pinguinus impennis*, a now-extinct species that inhabited the seas around eastern Canada. When explorers traveled to the Southern Hemisphere, they saw black and white birds that resembled auks, and called them penguins.

### 7: Animals of the Ice: Emperor Penguins | Ocean Today

*Fun penguin facts for kids including photos and printable activity worksheets; suitable for Kindergarten through Grade 6.*

Imelda Last Updated February 27, 2020: The penguin symbolism is ripe with meaning, so when this master bird appears to you, get ready to be intrigued and transformed! Common Penguin Spirit Animal Meanings The penguin spirit animal symbolizes community and togetherness, and how you need team work and social connection to survive. Just like with the Orca spirit animal, the penguin symbolism indicates purpose and order. It represents good manners and right conduct, and it reminds you to follow the rules even when no one is looking. It calls for self-discipline and determination so that you can achieve your goals. The meaning of the penguin also teaches you about having grace when it comes to your actions and emotions. You possess the strength and the fortitude to live with and overcome struggles. The penguin spirit animal is a symbol of renewal. When it appears to you, release your fears and let go of your old beliefs that are no longer working for you. It also puts emphasis on the value of aesthetic appearance and the importance of making good first impressions. If Your Spirit Animal is the Penguin, read this carefully! You have the power to make your dreams come true and create the life that you desire. The Squirrel Spirit Animal The penguin symbolism is telling you that you have an indomitable spirit. You can experience even the toughest challenges and still come out victorious. You have a strong sense of duty, and you can survive even the worst conditions. This epic journey is what gives you depth and character. Never give up, and always be hungry to explore your possibilities. Take a leap of faith and see things in a different way. The penguin spirit animal is asking you to look at how you act and how you navigate your way through life. Penguin spirit animals as messengers of change When the penguin spirit animal crosses your path, it is reminding you to wait for things to settle down. Your life may be in disarray right now, but there will be order, and there will be peace in the days to come. The meaning of the penguin urges you to keep moving forward with your plans and handle each problem as it comes to you. Take it slowly but surely, and you will receive your major breakthrough. Your penguin totem is reminding you that you can get through this tough period if you remain focused and centered. A strong connection to your spiritual self will also help, and you will know just what you need to do at just the right moment. The penguin meaning also indicates that you possess uncommon grace, and it will manifest in times of strife. It brings to light the value of a great sacrifice, and how sometimes you will need to do it for yourself and for others to become a better person. Your desire to learn and your thirst for knowledge are what drive you to make most of your life choices. You are a thinker and an analyst, and you are always good at coming up with new and inventive ways of thinking. You are a natural caretaker with a humanitarian spirit. You are resilient and ambitious. You like to work independently, but you also want to celebrate your successes with your social circles. You can also be meticulous about your appearance because you always want to look your best for people. You enjoy the good lifestyle. For this, you are very confident in any social situation. Negative Traits of the Penguin Spirit Animal You need your social time to feel connected to others and remain positive about your life. You have emotional insecurities and a fickle nature. This prompts a rise in your negative feelings. You also tend to make a lot of mistakes when it comes to love despite your intelligence. This is because of your flightiness and your quick judgement, and because you get easily discouraged.

### 8: Penguin Facts – Interesting Facts

*About the Emperor Penguin Emperors are the largest of all penguins – an average bird stands some 45 inches tall. These flightless animals live on the Antarctic ice and in the frigid surrounding.*

Furthermore, they restrict the phylogenetic taxon Sphenisciformes to flightless taxa, and establish the phylogenetic taxon Pansphenisciformes as equivalent to the Linnean taxon Sphenisciformes, [19] i. Given that neither the relationships of the penguin subfamilies to each other nor the placement of the penguins in the avian phylogeny is presently resolved, this is confusing, so the established Linnean system is followed here. Evolution Penguin tracks in the sand on Bruny Island, Tasmania The evolutionary history of penguins is well-researched and represents a showcase of evolutionary biogeography; though as penguin bones of any one species vary much in size and few good specimens are known, the alpha taxonomy of many prehistoric forms still leaves much to be desired. Some seminal articles about penguin prehistory have been published since; [15] [20] [23] [24] the evolution of the living genera can be considered resolved by now. The basal penguins lived around the time of the Cretaceous–Paleogene extinction event somewhere in the general area of southern New Zealand and Byrd Land, Antarctica. The most recent common ancestor of penguins and their sister clade can be roughly dated to the Campanian – Maastrichtian boundary, around 70 – 68 mya. An unnamed fossil from Argentina proves that, by the Bartonian Middle Eocene, some 39 – 38 mya, [27] primitive penguins had spread to South America and were in the process of expanding into Atlantic waters. Both were found on New Zealand, the former also in the Antarctic farther eastwards. Traditionally, most extinct species of penguins, giant or small, had been placed in the paraphyletic subfamily called Palaeodyptinae. More recently, with new taxa being discovered and placed in the phylogeny if possible, it is becoming accepted that there were at least two major extinct lineages. One or two closely related ones occurred in Patagonia, and at least one other – which is or includes the paleodyptines as recognized today – occurred on most Antarctic and Subantarctic coasts. But size plasticity seems to have been great at this initial stage of penguin radiation: In any case, the gigantic penguins had disappeared by the end of the Paleogene, around 25 mya. Their decline and disappearance coincided with the spread of the Squalodontoidea and other primitive, fish-eating toothed whales, which certainly competed with them for food, and were ultimately more successful. The early Neogene saw the emergence of yet another morphotype in the same area, the similarly sized but more gracile Palaeospheniscinae, as well as the radiation that gave rise to the penguin biodiversity of our time. Origin and systematics of modern penguins Modern penguins constitute two undisputed clades and another two more basal genera with more ambiguous relationships. Also, the earliest spheniscine lineages are those with the most southern distribution. The genus *Aptenodytes* appears to be the basalmost divergence among living penguins [15] [29] they have bright yellow-orange neck, breast, and bill patches; incubate by placing their eggs on their feet, and when they hatch the chicks are almost naked. This genus has a distribution centered on the Antarctic coasts and barely extends to some Subantarctic islands today. *Pygoscelis* contains species with a fairly simple black-and-white head pattern; their distribution is intermediate, centered on Antarctic coasts but extending somewhat northwards from there. As the former genus, *Pygoscelis* seems to have diverged during the Bartonian, [30] but the range expansion and radiation that led to the present-day diversity probably did not occur until much later; around the Burdigalian stage of the Early Miocene, roughly 20 – 15 mya. They all lack carotenoid coloration, and the former genus has a conspicuous banded head pattern; they are unique among living penguins by nesting in burrows. This group probably radiated eastwards with the Antarctic Circumpolar Current out of the ancestral range of modern penguins throughout the Chattian Late Oligocene, starting approximately 28 mya. They are characterized by hairy yellow ornamental head feathers; their bills are at least partly red. These two genera diverged apparently in the Middle Miocene Langhian, roughly 15 – 14 mya, but again, the living species of *Eudyptes* are the product of a later radiation, stretching from about the late Tortonian Late Miocene, 8 mya to the end of the Pliocene. With habitat on the Antarctic coasts declining, by the Priabonian more hospitable conditions for most penguins existed in the Subantarctic regions rather than in Antarctica itself. Relationship to other bird

orders Penguin ancestry beyond Waimanu remains unknown and not well-resolved by molecular or morphological analyses. On the other hand, different DNA sequence datasets do not agree in detail with each other either. Humboldt penguins in an aquarium. The penguin is an accomplished swimmer, having flippers instead of wings. What seems clear is that penguins belong to a clade of Neoaves living birds except paleognaths and fowl that comprises what is sometimes called "higher waterbirds" to distinguish them from the more ancient waterfowl. This group contains such birds as storks, rails, and the seabirds, with the possible exception of the Charadriiformes. Depending on the analysis and dataset, a close relationship to Ciconiiformes [24] or to Procellariiformes [20] has been suggested. Some think the penguin-like ptopterids usually considered relatives of anhingas and cormorants may actually be a sister group of the penguins, and that penguins may have ultimately shared a common ancestor with the Pelecaniformes and consequently would have to be included in that order, or that the ptopterids were not as close to other pelecaniforms as generally assumed, which would necessitate splitting the traditional Pelecaniformes in three. Like the penguins, puffins have a white chest, black back and short stubby wings providing excellent swimming ability in icy water. But, unlike penguins, puffins can fly, as flightless birds would not survive alongside land-based predators such as polar bears and foxes; there are no such predators in the Antarctic. Their similarities indicate that similar environments, although at great distances, can result in similar evolutionary developments, i. The Drygalski ice tongue is visible in the background. Taxidermized penguin skin Penguins are superbly adapted to aquatic life. Their vestigial wings have become flippers, useless for flight in the air. In the water, however, penguins are astonishingly agile. The air layer also helps insulate the birds in cold waters. On land, penguins use their tails and wings to maintain balance for their upright stance. All penguins are countershaded for camouflage – that is, they have black backs and wings with white fronts. The dark plumage on their backs camouflages them from above. Larger penguins can dive deep in case of need. Penguins either waddle on their feet or slide on their bellies across the snow while using their feet to propel and steer themselves, a movement called "tobogganing", which conserves energy while moving quickly. They also jump with both feet together if they want to move more quickly or cross steep or rocky terrain. Penguins have an average sense of hearing for birds; [39] this is used by parents and chicks to locate one another in crowded colonies. Penguins have a thick layer of insulating feathers that keeps them warm in water heat loss in water is much greater than in air. The emperor penguin has a maximum feather density of about nine feathers per square centimeter which is actually much lower than other birds that live in antarctic environments. However, they have been identified as having at least four different types of feather: They also are able to control blood flow to their extremities, reducing the amount of blood that gets cold, but still keeping the extremities from freezing. In the extreme cold of the Antarctic winter, the females are at sea fishing for food leaving the males to brave the weather by themselves. They often huddle together to keep warm and rotate positions to make sure that each penguin gets a turn in the center of the heat pack. Calculations of the heat loss and retention ability of marine endotherms [43] suggest that most extant penguins are too small to survive in such cold environments. The flippers of penguins have at least three branches of the axillary artery, which allows cold blood to be heated by blood that has already been warmed and limits heat loss from the flippers. This system allows penguins to efficiently use their body heat and explains why such small animals can survive in the extreme cold. The great auk of the Northern Hemisphere, now extinct, was superficially similar to penguins, and the word penguin was originally used for that bird, centuries ago. They are only distantly related to the penguins, but are an example of convergent evolution. Perhaps one in 50, penguins of most species are born with brown rather than black plumage. These are called isabelline penguins. Isabellinism is different from albinism. Isabelline penguins tend to live shorter lives than normal penguins, as they are not well-camouflaged against the deep, and are often passed over as mates. Distribution and habitat See also: List of Sphenisciformes by population Although almost all penguin species are native to the Southern Hemisphere, they are not found only in cold climates, such as Antarctica. In fact, only a few species of penguin actually live so far south. There is some disagreement about this, and several other authors have noted that there are fossil penguin species that contradict this hypothesis and that ocean currents and upwellings are likely to have had a greater effect on species diversity than latitude alone.

### 9: 20 Black-and-White Facts About Penguins | Mental Floss

*In general, flightless penguins have greater limits on foraging ranges and search capacities compared to birds that can fly. Thus to be successful, penguins must find predictable food sources within their limited foraging range.*

Penguins Lost the Ability to Fly 62 Million Years Ago Penguin facts tell an interesting story about a bird that once flew, and then evolved to become a better swimmer, but lost its ability to fly in the process. One of the most amazing penguin facts involves just how long ago penguins began evolving towards life in the water and lost their ability to fly. The oldest fossil of a penguin species dates from over 60 million years ago! Penguin facts show that this penguin had already lost the ability to fly. Scientists speculate that these ancient penguins swam mostly on the top of the water. However, their wings had already evolved to be better used as flippers in the water and the bird could no longer fly. Giant Penguins Lived in New Zealand 40 Million Years Ago When we look at fossil records to reveal penguin facts, we find some amazing ancestors of the penguins we are used to seeing today. Emperor penguins are the largest penguins alive today. Emperor penguins facts tell us that these birds can be up to 4 feet tall and can weigh pounds. Giant penguin fossils have been found in New Zealand. These penguins lived 40 million years ago and were nearly 6 feet tall and weighed over pounds! It may have been that there was an abundance of food available with few competitors, so the penguins grew larger. Competition from other marine animals, such as the whale species emerging at the time, eventually displaced the giant penguins and they became extinct approximately 25 million years ago. Penguins Are Carnivores Penguin facts can tell us a lot about these flightless birds. One thing we know without penguin facts is that these creatures are well loved by children and adults all around the world. Make no mistake, these cuddly-looking creatures are carnivores! This means that penguins eat only meat, and no vegetables. Penguins survive on a diet of mostly fish. They also consume other marine animals, including squid and octopus. This diet is partly a result of the region of the Earth they inhabit. Nearly all penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere, and many live in the Antarctic where there is little to no vegetation. Penguin facts show that although penguins are predators, they are also prey. Penguin chicks can be eaten by other birds when they are smaller and more vulnerable. Adult penguins can be preyed on by leopard seals and killer whales, or orcas. We know from our dolphin facts that the orca is an apex predator. Given that the penguin is preyed on by the orca and few other animals, it is very near the top of the marine food chain. Penguins have many special adaptations for living in cold weather. They have a thick layer of feathers that acts as insulation, and they can also control the flow of blood to their extremities, maintaining just enough blood flow to keep those body parts from freezing. Penguin facts reveal a unique behavior of penguins that demonstrates their ability to work together as a group to provide benefits to each individual. During the coldest months of winter, after the mother emperor penguin lays her egg, she goes hunting while the father stands over the egg to keep it warm. To stay warm, the male penguins huddle in so-called heat packs that allow them to maintain their individual body temperatures by creating a shared thermal envelope that protects the group. Penguin facts show that this behavior goes beyond simply huddling in groups to stay warm. Their large body size allows them to go to extremes that other penguins cannot. For instance, when it comes to diving, emperor penguins are capable of diving to depths of 1, ft. To compensate for the extreme pressures at these depths “ up to 40 times the pressure at the surface “ emperor penguins have special adaptations. Their bones are solid instead of air-filled, like other birds, to reduce barotrauma. Penguins Can Drink Salt Water and Not Get Sick Penguin facts show us the unique ways in which these animals have developed to survive extreme cold and the extreme depths that some species are capable of diving. They can dive over 1, feet deep and withstand temperatures 40 degrees below zero! It seems that penguins are tough inside and out. Their digestive system has unique features that allow the bird to survive and thrive in its marine lifestyle. Penguins have a supraorbital gland, which is a gland that filters out sodium chloride from the blood stream. In other words, the gland filters salt out of the blood. This allows penguins to drink salt water when they are thirsty! Penguins Live in Colonies as Large as , Birds Emperor penguin facts have shown us the unique behavior of the male penguins who huddle in heat packs to stay warm in the frigid Antarctic winter. Penguins are social animals, and they like to hang

out! Emperor penguins live in colonies that number into the thousands, but interesting penguin facts shock us with the real party-animals of the penguin order: Macaroni penguins can group in colonies of several hundred thousand birds at once! As a result of living in these large groups, penguins have adapted many unique vocalizations and displays to communicate with other birds. These displays occur between male and female penguins and between male penguins that may be competing for the same female. Emperor Penguins Lay Only 1 Egg Each Breeding Season Emperor penguins breed during the cold winter months in Antarctica and penguin facts show that they only lay one egg each breeding season. This must put a lot of pressure on the father penguins that must bear the cold winter weather and protect the egg while the mother penguin fishes. Emperor penguins are the fifth heaviest bird species on Earth. Emperor penguins live on average to be 20 years old, with scientists speculating that some individuals may live as long as 50 years. The only penguins that ever enter the Northern Hemisphere are penguins living near the Galapagos Islands who may travel north to feed. When penguins were first discovered, they were mistakenly thought to be auks. Auks are northern birds which share some similarities in appearance with penguins. However, they are completely separate animals. At one time, there were flightless auks that had similar traits as penguins. Modern auks are capable of flying, but they are not the most majestic birds in the sky. When scientists examine penguin facts, they find that auks are actually a separate animal that shares traits with penguins due to convergent evolution. This means that auks and penguins evolved similar traits at the same time, but not through a process of breeding with each other. They developed the similar traits separately, in response to the similarities of the Arctic and Antarctic environments. Penguin facts tell us that their vestigial wings are now powerful flippers that can propel them through the water at incredible speeds. Penguins typically idle around at miles per hour. But, when an orca or leopard seal is stalking them, they step on the gas and can hit speeds as high as 17 miles per hour! Another benefit of evolution is their streamlined body. Interesting Facts about Penguins Summary Penguin facts teach us about these majestic birds, of which the emperor penguin is the largest of all. Penguins evolved over 60 million years ago from birds who flew through the air in to birds who swam through the water. While giant penguins no longer roam the Earth, as they did up until 25 million years ago, penguins continue to hold a prime spot in our love of nature. While many penguin species are thriving, some are listed on the Endangered Species list. The best way we can ensure we continue to have fun penguin facts for kids now and in the future, is to protect their natural habitat in the Southern Hemisphere, including Antarctica.

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