

Penguins of Antarctica

Antarctica is a continent of ice-covered rock surrounded by water. It has extremely low temperatures. However, millions of penguins thrive there. Penguins are especially suited for this climate. They have short, waterproof feathers. These feathers grow tightly together to keep the penguins warm. In addition, a penguin's body has a layer of blubber to help keep in the heat.

Penguins are large, nonflying birds. They live on land and eat fish and plants from the water. They have webbed feet and flipper-like wings, which help them move in the water. Penguins walk awkwardly on land, but they are excellent swimmers. They can swim up to fifteen miles per hour.

Every spring, mother penguins lay eggs. Then the father penguin takes care of the eggs until the chicks hatch. While the father takes care of the eggs, the mother goes off to feed. A newly hatched chick is covered in soft down feathers. These feathers are not waterproof. The parents care for and feed the chick until it grows waterproof feathers, which takes about a year.



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