

Penguins

Classification

Penguins are a popular animal. They are a type of bird. Penguins are warm blooded and there exist 17 different species.

Description

Penguins are black and white birds. Their body is in the shape of a torpedo. This helps them with swimming. They can always swim with ease because their feathers are coated with oil. This makes them waterproof and windproof.

While penguins often live in cold conditions they can keep warm because they have a layer of fat, called blubber, under their skin.

Penguins love fish and to help them catch them they have a hooked bill and bristles on their tongue.

Behaviour

Penguins spend as much as 75% of their lives in water. While they can't fly, it does look like they are flying under the water, especially when they swim at speeds up to 15 miles per hour.

A lot of this time in water is spent looking for food. They particularly enjoy fish, krill and squid. Drinking the sea water is not a problem to them as their bodies have a gland that can remove the salt from the water.

In the cold and freezing climates penguins keep warm by huddling together in large group of up to 5000.

Location

Penguins are found in the Southern Hemisphere. Not only in cold areas of the south pole (Antarctica) but also in hot climates. They can live in a tropical setting, on rocky cliff and of course in cold harsh places.

Summary

Penguins are loved all over the world. They are often the most popular attraction at the zoo. They are even popular among some animals like lizards, snakes, rats, sea eagles, seals and orcas. Because all of these hunt, kill and eat penguins.

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WALT- read a report for answers

WILF- full answers

1. Why do penguins have oil on their feathers?
2. Name three predators of the penguin.
3. Why is a penguin's bill hooked?
4. How many species of penguin exist?
5. Give two ways that a penguin keeps warm when it is cold.
6. How fast can a penguin swim?
7. What part of the world do penguins live?
8. How can a penguin drink sea water without being sick?
9. How much of their time do penguins spend in water?
10. List some of the foods that penguins eat.