

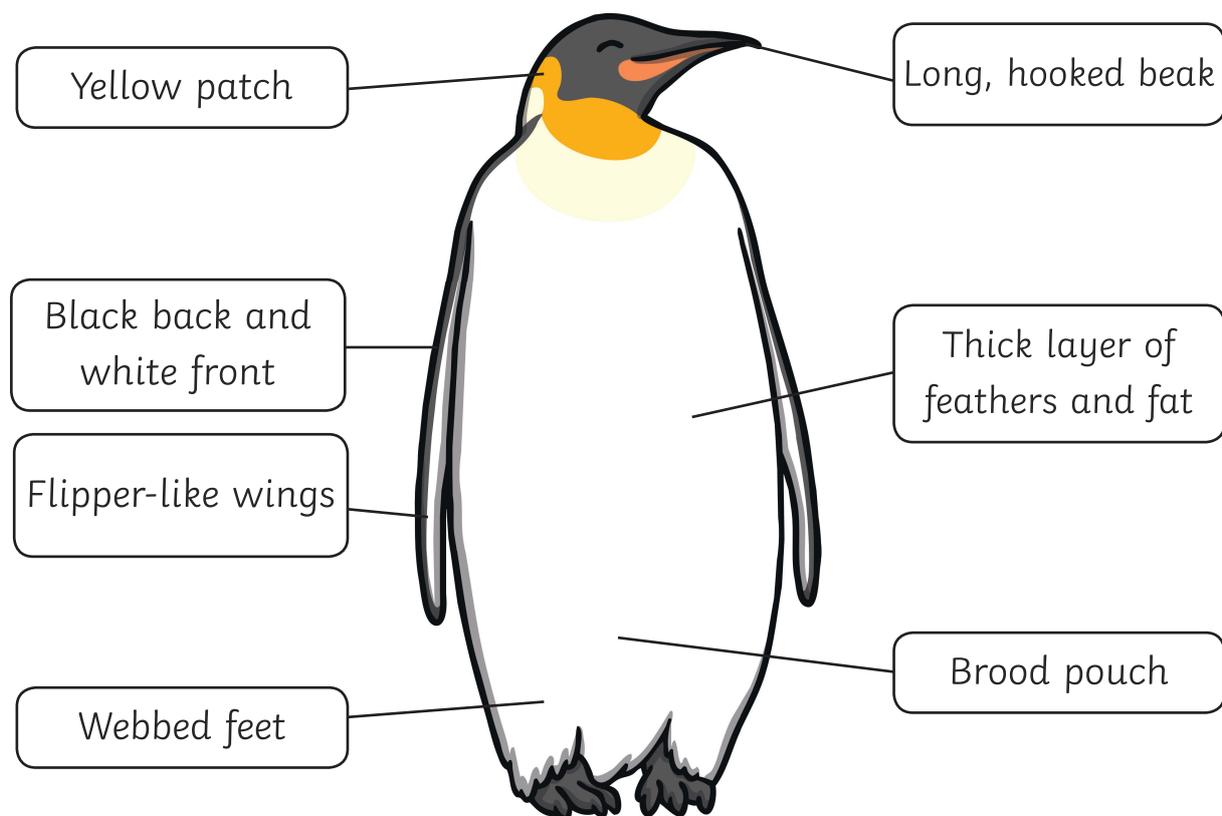
# The Emperor Penguin

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 (a colony) so that they can keep warm.

## Body



## 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.

# Questions

1. Which of these is true about the emperor penguin? Tick **one**.
  - the largest animal in the world
  - the largest penguin in the world
  - the smallest penguin in the world
2. What is their habitat like? Tick **one**.
  - It is very cold.
  - It is very warm.
  - It has a yellow patch.
3. What is a big group of penguins called? Tick **one**.
  - a brood pouch
  - a habitat
  - a colony
4. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. What does the female do with the egg? Tick **one**.
  - She keeps it warm all winter in her brood pouch.
  - She passes it to the male.
  - She has webbed feet.
5. How long can emperor penguins swim underwater? Tick **one**.
  - for up to 22 minutes
  - for up to 22 days
  - for up to 130cm

# Answers

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# The Emperor Penguin

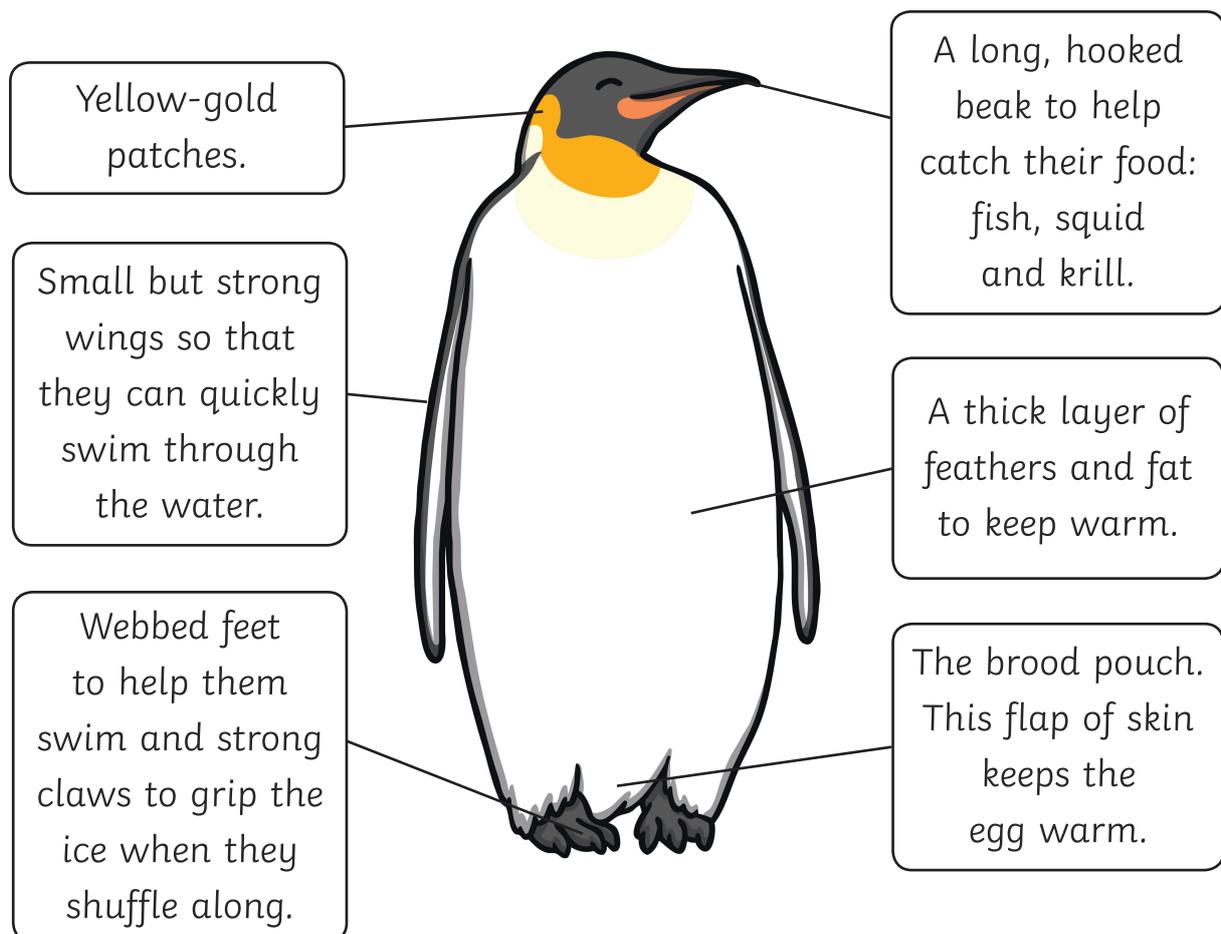
The emperor penguin is the largest of the 17 types of penguins. Penguins are birds but they cannot fly. Instead, their flipper-like wings and webbed feet help them to swim well.

## Habitat

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

## 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.



### Did You Know...?

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



# Questions

1. What can emperor penguins do? Tick **one**.

- They can change colour.
- They can fly well.
- They can swim well.

2. How do emperor penguins survive in Antarctica? Tick **two**.

- They have a thick layer of fur to keep them warm.
- They have a thick layer of feathers and fat to keep them warm.
- They make a huddle with each other.

3. Look at the **body** section. Match the animals to how tall they are.

adult emperor penguin ●	● shorter than an emperor penguin
king penguin ●	● as tall as a six year old boy or girl

4. Find and copy a word which describes how emperor penguins move across the ice.

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5. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. What is a group of penguins in the water called?

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# Answers

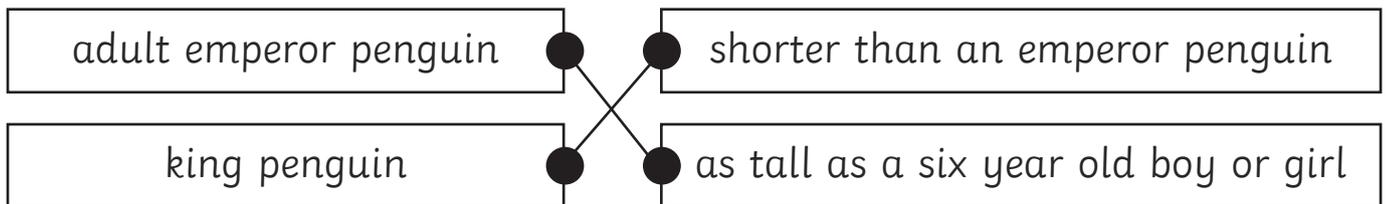
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4. Find and copy a word which describes how emperor penguins move across the ice.

**shuffle**

5. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. What is a group of penguins in the water called?

**a raft**

# 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, the coldest place on Earth. They live in a huge group called a colony. To keep them warm in cold weather, they have a thick layer of insulation, made up of feathers (plumage) and 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.



## Did You Know...?

- It is a long, slow walk inland across the ice to the colony. Emperor penguins can waddle up to 120km (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.



## Life Cycle

### Egg Laying

1

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.



### Incubation and Hatching

2

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.



### Moulting

3

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

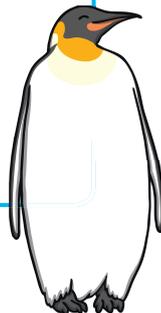


### Breeding

5

The young penguins return when they are about five years old.

In April, the penguins find a mate.



### Fledging

4

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

# Questions

1. The emperor penguin is... Tick **one**.

- not a large penguin  
 the biggest of all the penguins  
 the smallest species of penguin

2. Look at the **Habitat** section. Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are true and which ones are false.

Sentence	True	False
Emperor penguins live all over the earth.		
They live alone.		
They live in a colony.		
Their insulation keeps them warm.		

3. Fill in the missing word.

The male penguin protects his egg from gale-force winds and extremely cold temperatures. In all this time, he eats \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Look at the **Life Cycle** section. What happens during moulting?

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5. **The female lays one egg in May... and returns to the ocean.**

Why does she return to the ocean? Give two reasons.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. How do penguins move differently on ice compared to the sea?

Use examples from the text.

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# Answers

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- the biggest of all the penguins**
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Emperor penguins live all over the earth.		✓
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Their insulation keeps them warm.	✓	

3. Fill in the missing word.

The male penguin protects his egg from gale-force winds and extremely cold temperatures. In all this time, he eats **nothing**.

4. Look at the **Life Cycle** section. What happens during moulting?

**The chicks lose their soft, fluffy, down feathers and grow sleek, waterproof ones.**

5. **The female lays one egg in May... and returns to the ocean.**

Why does she return to the ocean? Give two reasons.

1. **She needs to eat to get more energy.**
2. **She needs to find food for her chick.**

6. How do penguins move differently on ice compared to the sea? Use examples from the text.

**Pupils' own responses, showing understanding of the penguins' body parts being adapted to different environments. For example: Penguins are better at moving in the sea. Penguins move slowly and waddle on ice but have flipper-like wings and webbed feet so they are superb swimmers and outstanding divers.**