

All about Penguins

What do penguins eat?

In the wild, penguins eat fish, shellfish and squid.

How fast do penguins swim?

Penguins can live on land and in the water. They use their wings like flippers, and fly through the water at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour.

What is a group of penguins called?

On land, a group of penguins is called a waddle or a colony. In the water, a group of penguins is called a raft.

Why are penguins black and white?

To camouflage, or help them hide. When seen from above, the black blends in with the deep colours of the ocean floor. From below, the penguins' white bellies are hidden by the bright surface.

What noise do penguins make?

Penguins are very sociable birds, and make lots of different sounds depending on what they're trying to say. Their main noise is often described as a honk, or braying sound.

How many types of penguin are there?

There are thought to be 17 different types, or species, of penguin living in the world today.

Where do penguins live?

Not all penguins live in cold countries. But all 17 types of penguin do live in the Southern Hemisphere. Only those in captivity can be found in the Northern Hemisphere. Outside of Antarctica, penguins tend to live on rocky coastlines or desert regions.

Do penguins have a mate for life?

Yes, most penguins have the same partner all their adult lives. When a male penguin reaches breeding age, it will go and find a nest. If a female comes along and likes the look of this new home, she'll move in. At the start of each breeding season, the same two penguins will pair up again.

Does a male penguin raise its young?

Yes, but so does mum. Penguins 'co-parent', which means both the male and female raise their young. Each parent takes a turn to sit on the egg, while the other goes off to feed. When the chick has hatched, they take turns to keep the chick warm and bring back food. They swallow the food, and then regurgitate it for the chick to eat.

How many eggs does a penguin lay?

Penguins usually lay two eggs in each breeding season. This is called a clutch. They lay the eggs several days apart, and each one takes around 34 days to hatch. To incubate the eggs (keep them warm), penguins rest them on their feet and then push them up into their feathers, close to their skin.