

Emperor Penguins

The emperor penguin is the largest of all the penguins; it is just over 1 metre tall and weighs around 30 kilograms. They have black heads, wings and feet and white bellies. They also have orange patches on their necks and faces. They have thick **blubber** underneath their skin which keeps them warm in the cold weather.

Habitat

Emperor penguins live in **harsh** places near the seas in Antarctica. It is a very cold and windy place. Some winds can be as fast as 200 miles per hour. Because of this, penguins have **waterproof** feathers to keep dry and extra fat (blubber) to keep them warm. They live in big groups called **flocks**.



Diet

Penguins have wings but they cannot fly. However, they can swim fast, swimming at around 30 kilometres per hour. They catch their food while they are swimming. They **gather** fish and squid in their beaks which they eat under the water. They use their wings like flippers and **steer** with their tails. They have **sleek** bodies which help them **glide** through the water. Penguins have **predators** of their own. Their enemies are killer whales, leopard seals and sea lions.



Baby Penguins

In the autumn, penguins travel 100 kilometres south to find a nesting place. There, they meet a partner and three weeks later the female penguin lays an egg. She leaves the male with the egg. The male puts it on top of his feet to keep it warm. The male penguins stand close together to keep in the warmth and do not eat for two months! The female returns when the egg starts to **hatch** and then the male can eat.

Baby penguins are called chicks. Chicks have soft, grey feathers instead of black and white ones. Mother penguins feed their babies with fish. The chicks eat it from their mother's mouth.



Did you know..?

Temperatures can dip as low as -40°C in the Emperor Penguin's habitat in Antarctica.

Protecting Penguins

There are many other types of penguin, such as Rock Hopper penguins and Adelie penguins. There are 17 different **species** in total. However, Emperor penguins are the most **popular**. The sad thing is that **global warming** is causing the ice to melt in places where lots of these penguins live and these animals are losing their homes. There are only 600,000 of them left in the world. As most people love penguins, we should do all we can to protect these animals and their habitats. What could you do to help?

Emperor Penguins – Follow-Up Work

Give two examples of the sub-headings used in the text.

Why do you think the writer has used the word 'harsh' to describe Antarctica?

How fast can penguins swim?

Describe how penguins look after their chicks.

How low can temperatures reach in Antarctica?

Which word in the 'Diet' section tells us that penguins are very good swimmers?

Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word 'predator'.

In the section ‘Protecting Penguins’, what is the message being given to the reader?

What do you think will happen to the Emperor penguins if people do not start protecting their habitat?

Write down three facts that you have found out about penguins from reading the text.

How do the sub-headings help us understand the information in the text?

Suggest a different title for this report.

What else would you now like to find out about penguins?

Emperor Penguins – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

blubber _____

habitat _____

harsh _____

waterproof _____

flocks _____

gather _____

steer _____

sleek _____

glide _____

predators _____

hatch _____

species _____

popular _____

protect _____

global warming _____

Emperor Penguins – Vocab 2

Find the key words from the text within the word search below.

a	o	m	d	w	i	p	y	i	g	a	k	x
s	l	e	e	k	c	i	q	i	l	n	p	p
b	e	f	n	e	k	e	t	j	i	f	w	o
l	b	u	l	z	a	s	e	o	d	e	r	p
u	b	l	h	o	c	s	t	g	e	s	h	u
b	h	p	a	r	c	q	u	e	y	l	i	l
b	a	e	r	t	d	k	a	r	e	l	v	a
e	v	a	s	t	i	s	s	f	d	r	e	r
r	n	o	h	u	z	a	m	a	x	o	c	e
h	a	b	i	t	a	t	g	h	a	t	c	h

sleek steer harsh glide hatch popular blubber flocks

Now choose four of the words from the list above and write them into sentences of your own.

Adjectives

The following sentences are taken from the text. Underline the adjective in each sentence.

- They are the biggest of all penguins.
- Emperor penguins live in a harsh place in the seas around Antarctica.
- They live in large groups called flocks.
- They have sleek bodies.
- Baby penguins have soft, grey feathers.

Create a list of other adjectives with a similar meaning (synonyms) to the words given below. You may use a thesaurus to help you.

happy _____

sad _____

cold _____

hot _____

small _____

big _____

Use a synonym from your list above to improve these sentences from the text.

It is a very cold and windy place.

They live in big groups called flocks.

Emperor Penguins – Oral Teacher Questions

Give two examples of the sub-headings used in the text. **Examples could include: Habitat, Diet, Baby Penguins or Protecting Penguins.**

Why do you think the writer has used the word 'harsh' to describe Antarctica? **It explains that the area is very difficult to live in. It is extremely cold and windy.**

How fast can penguins swim? **Penguins can swim up to 30 kilometres per hour.**

Describe how penguins look after their chicks. **The female leaves the male with the egg. The male puts it on top of his feet to keep it warm. The male penguins stand close together to keep in the warmth and do not eat for two months. The female returns when the egg starts to hatch and then the male can eat. Mother penguins feed their babies with fish, straight from their mouths into the mouths of the babies.**

How low can temperatures reach in Antarctica? **Temperatures can reach as low as – 40° degrees.**

Which word in the 'Diet' section tells us that penguins are very good swimmers? **The word 'glide' tell us that penguins are good swimmers.**

Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word 'predator'. **Pupil response may vary dependent on dictionary used.**

In the section 'Protecting Penguins', what is the message being given to the reader? **It tells the reader that people need to protect the environment because global warming is destroying the penguin's habitat.**

What do you think will happen to the Emperor penguins if people do not start protecting their habitat? **The penguins will start to die out because they have no where to live or find food.**

Write down three facts that you have found out about penguins from reading the text. **Pupil responses will vary. All suggestions to be taken directly from the text.**

How do the sub-headings help us understand the information in the text? **The sub-headings help to organise the text and help us to find information more quickly by telling us what each section of the text is about.**

Suggest a different title for this report. **Pupil responses will vary. Examples could include: All About Penguins, Penguin Facts etc.**

What else would you now like to find out about penguins? **Pupil responses will vary.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

blubber – a layer of fat in animals who live in cold places to help them stay warm

habitat – the place where an animal or plant lives

harsh – unpleasant; hard; cruel

waterproof – items which do not let water soak in

flocks – the name given to a group of birds (also sheep and goats)

gather – to bring together in one group and place

steer – to guide the direction of an object

sleek – smooth, shiny or glossy

glide – to move easily and smoothly along

predators – an animal which hunts and eats another animal as prey

hatch – to break out of an egg

species – a group or a type of an animal or plant

popular – something which is seen to be good or favourable by lots of people

protect – to keep safe from harm or injury

global warming – the process where the Earth's temperature has been warming up due to peoples' misuse of the planet and its resources

Emperor Penguins – Vocab 2

Find the key words from the text within the word search below.

a	o	m	d	w	i	p	y	i	g	a	k	x
s	l	e	e	k	c	i	q	i	l	n	p	p
b	e	f	n	e	k	e	t	j	i	f	w	o
l	b	u	l	z	a	s	e	o	d	e	r	p
u	b	l	h	o	c	s	t	g	e	s	h	u
b	h	p	a	r	c	q	u	e	y	l	i	l
b	a	e	r	t	d	k	a	r	e	l	v	a
e	v	a	s	t	i	s	s	f	d	r	e	r
r	n	o	h	u	z	a	m	a	x	o	c	e
h	a	b	i	t	a	t	g	h	a	t	c	h

sleek	steer	harsh	glide	hatch	popular	blubber	flocks
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Now choose four of the words from the list above and write them into sentences of your own.

Pupil responses will vary.

Adjectives

The following sentences are taken from the text. Underline the adjective in each sentence.

- They are the **biggest** of all penguins.
- Emperor penguins live in a **harsh** place in the seas around Antarctica.
- They live in **large** groups called flocks.
- They have **sleek** bodies.
- **Baby** penguins have **soft**, **grey** feathers.

Create a list of other adjectives with a similar meaning (synonyms) to the words given below. You may use a thesaurus to help you.

happy – **cheerful, glad, joyful, pleasant.**

sad – **dismal, sorry, gloomy, down.**

cold – **bitter, chilly, cool, frosty.**

hot – **boiling, heated, warm, baking.**

small – **tiny, little, minute.**

big – **enormous, huge, massive.**

Use a synonym from your list above to improve these sentences from the text.

It is a very cold and windy place.

It is a very (bitter / chilly / cool / frosty) and windy place.

They live in big groups called flocks.

They live in (enormous / huge / massive) groups called flocks.