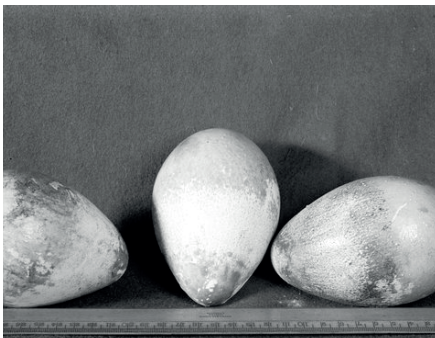


# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle

Penguins are birds that can't fly and there are 17 subspecies of penguin. Emperor penguins are the biggest and are found in the Antarctic. They have flippers that help them to swim and they eat fish, squid and krill. Groups of penguins on land are called a colony, rookery, huddle or waddle.

1

## Egg



The mother penguin lays one or two eggs in a nest.

The mother carefully moves the egg to the father, but some eggs get broken.

The male keeps the egg warm on his feet, under a flap of his belly.

The mother goes off to the sea to feed.

2

## Chick

The chick hatches.



Chicks have soft, fluffy, grey feathers.

The mothers and fathers take turns to look after their chick.

The other goes off to sea to feed and returns to feed the chick.

The chicks huddle together to keep safe and warm.

## Adult

The penguins grow waterproof, black and white feathers.

They learn to hunt on their own.

The families leave when the ice breaks up.

In April, the adult penguins march a long way inland.

They find a mate by singing and keep the same mate for life.



# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What can't penguins do?

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2. How many subspecies of penguins are there?

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3. What helps them swim?

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4. What do they eat?

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5. Where do penguins lay eggs?

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6. Who keeps the eggs warm?

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7. What are chicks' feathers like?

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8. How long do penguins keep the same mate?

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# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle **Answers**

1. What can't penguins do?

**They can't fly.**

2. How many subspecies of penguins are there?

**There are 17 subspecies of penguin.**

3. What helps them swim?

**They have flippers that help them swim.**

4. What do they eat?

**They eat fish, squid and krill.**

5. Where do penguins lay eggs?

**They lay one or two eggs in a nest.**

6. Who keeps the eggs warm?

**The males keep the egg warm.**

7. What are chicks' feathers like?

**Chicks have soft, fluffy, grey feathers.**

8. How long do penguins keep the same mate?

**They keep the same mate for life.**

# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle

Penguins are birds that can't fly and they spend most of their life at sea. There are 17 subspecies of penguin. Emperor penguins are the biggest type of penguin. Instead of normal wings, they have flippers that help them to swim through the water. They catch fish, squid and krill to eat. Emperor penguins are found in the Antarctic. Groups of penguins on land are called a colony, rookery, huddle or waddle. A group of penguins floating in the ocean is called a raft.

## Egg

The mother penguin lays one or two eggs in a nest a few weeks after mating. The burrow can be a circle made of grass or stones, or can be under the ground. The mother carefully transfers the egg to the father, but some eggs get broken.



The male incubates the egg in June and July by keeping it on his feet, under a flap of his belly. The mother goes off to the sea to feed at this time.

1

## Chick

The chick hatches from the egg in August and starts calling so that the parents know its voice. Chicks have soft, fluffy, grey feathers. The mothers return and both parents take turns to look after their chick during September and October. The parent not looking after the chick goes off to sea to feed and returns to feed the chick. During October and November, the chicks huddle together to keep safe and warm.



2

## Adult

It can take up to thirteen months for penguins to form waterproof, black and white feathers. The families leave in December, when the ice breaks up at the start of the Antarctic summer. Chicks then hunt on their own and they all do lots of feeding in January, February and March. In April, the adult penguins march between 90 – 160km inland. They find a mate by singing to each other, usually in April or May. They keep the same mate for the whole of their life. Adult penguins can only reproduce when they are 3 to 8 years old.



# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Where do emperor penguins live?

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2. What can't penguins do?

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3. How many subspecies of penguins are there?

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4. What do penguins eat?

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5. What are groups of penguins called?

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6. What are burrows made of?

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7. How do the males keep the eggs warm?

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8. What do the parents take turns with?

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9. How far do penguins have to march and when?

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10. How do penguins find each other and their chicks?

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# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle **Answers**

1. Where do emperor penguins live?

**Emperor penguins are found in the Antarctic.**

2. What can't penguins do?

**Penguins can't fly.**

3. How many subspecies of penguins are there?

**There are 17 subspecies of penguin.**

4. What do penguins eat?

**They catch fish, squid and krill to eat.**

5. What are groups of penguins called?

**Groups of penguins on land are called a colony, rookery, huddle or waddle. A group of penguins floating in the ocean is called a raft.**

6. What are burrows made of?

**A burrow can be a circle made of grass or stones, or can be under the ground.**

7. How do the males keep the eggs warm?

**The mother carefully transfers the egg to the father. The males incubate the egg by keeping it on his feet, under a flap of his belly.**

8. What do the parents take turns with?

**The mothers return and they both take turns to look after their chick during September and October. The parent not looking after the chick goes off to sea to feed and returns to feed the chick.**

9. How far do penguins have to march and when?

**In April, the adult penguins march between 90 – 160km inland.**

10. How do penguins find each other and their chicks?

**They find a mate by singing to each other and when the chick hatches it starts calling so that the parents know its voice and can find it.**

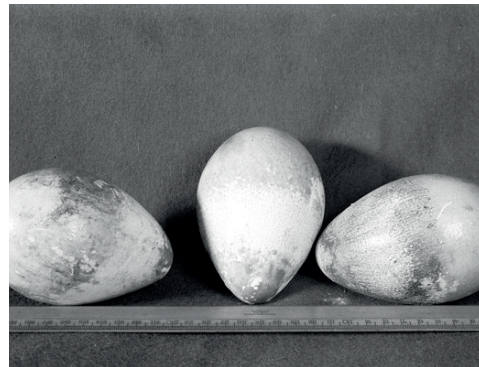
# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle

Penguins are birds that can't fly and they spend 75% of their life at sea. There are 17 subspecies of penguin. Emperor penguins are the biggest subspecies of penguin. They are unusual because the male plays a huge part in helping to care for the offspring. Instead of normal wings, they have flippers that help them swim through the water, which makes them excellent swimmers. They are good hunters and swim to catch fish, squid and krill to eat. Different types of wild penguins live all over the bottom half of the earth, however, emperor penguins are only found in the Antarctic. Groups of penguins on land are called a colony, rookery, huddle or waddle. A group of penguins floating in the ocean is called a raft.

1

## Egg

The whole colony travels across the ice to nest at the start of the Antarctic winter. The mother penguin lays one or two eggs in a nest a few weeks after mating. The burrow can be a circle made of grass or stones, or can be under the ground. The mother carefully transfers the egg to the father, but unfortunately around 20% of eggs get broken during this transfer. The male incubates the egg in June and July by keeping it on his feet, under a flap of his belly. The mother goes off to the sea to feed at this time.



2

## Chick

The chick hatches from the egg in August and starts calling so that the parents recognise its voice. Chicks have soft, fluffy, grey feathers. The fathers are very loving and fast for two months to look after their chicks. They form huddle circles to keep the chicks warm. The mothers return and take turns with the males to look after their chick during September and October. The parent not looking after the chick goes off to sea to feed and returns to feed the chick by regurgitating. This cycle repeats six times. During the rest of October and November, the chicks huddle together to keep safe and stay warm by sharing body heat.



3

## Adult

It takes between seven weeks and thirteen months for penguins to form waterproof, black and white feathers. They have the thickest coat of any bird. The families leave in December when the ice breaks up, as this is the start of the Antarctic summer. Chicks grow up to be able to hunt on their own and they all do lots of feeding in January, February and March. In April, the adult penguins march between 90 – 160km inland. They find a mate, usually in April or May, and keep the same mate for the whole of their life. They find their mate by singing and the females choose the males. Adult penguins can only reproduce when they are 3 to 8 years old.



# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How much of their lives do penguins spend at sea?

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2. What unusual job does the male penguin do?

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3. Explain two things that penguins are good at and what they do with these skills.

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4. What are groups of penguins called?

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5. Where do penguins go to nest and when does this happen?

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6. How does the egg end up on the father's feet and what can happen to them?

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7. How do the males care for their chicks well?

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8. How are the chicks fed and by whom?

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9. How do their feathers change and what is so useful about them compared to other birds?

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10. Why do you think the penguins feed lots in January, February and March?

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# Emperor Penguin Life Cycle **Answers**

1. How much of their lives do penguins spend at sea?

**Penguins spend 75% of their life at sea.**

2. What unusual job does the male penguin do?

**Penguins are unusual because the male plays a huge part in helping to care for the offspring.**

3. Explain two things that penguins are good at and what they do with these skills.

**They have flippers that help them swim through the water, this makes them excellent swimmers. They are good hunters and swim to catch fish, squid and krill to eat.**

4. What are groups of penguins called?

**Groups of penguins on land are called a colony, rookery, huddle or waddle. A group of penguins floating in the ocean is called a raft.**

5. Where do penguins go to nest and when does this happen?

**The whole colony travels across the ice to nest at the start of the Antarctic winter. The mother penguin lays one or two eggs in a nest a few weeks after mating.**

6. How does the egg end up on the father's feet and what can happen to them?

**The mother carefully transfers the egg to the father, but unfortunately around 20% of eggs break.**

7. How do the males care for their chicks well?

**The fathers are very loving, they fast for two months to look after their chicks and form huddle circles to keep the chicks warm.**

8. How are the chicks fed and by whom?

**The mothers return and then take turns with the males to look after their chick during September and October. The parent not looking after the chick goes off to sea to feed and returns to feed the chick by regurgitating.**

9. How do their feathers change and what is so useful about them compared to other birds?

**It takes between seven weeks and thirteen months for penguins to form waterproof, black and white feathers. They have the thickest coat of any bird.**

10. Why do you think the penguins feed lots in January, February and March?

**(Answers will vary) E.g. Penguins feed lots then because it is the Antarctic summer and there are lots of fish, squid and krill in the sea for them to eat.**