

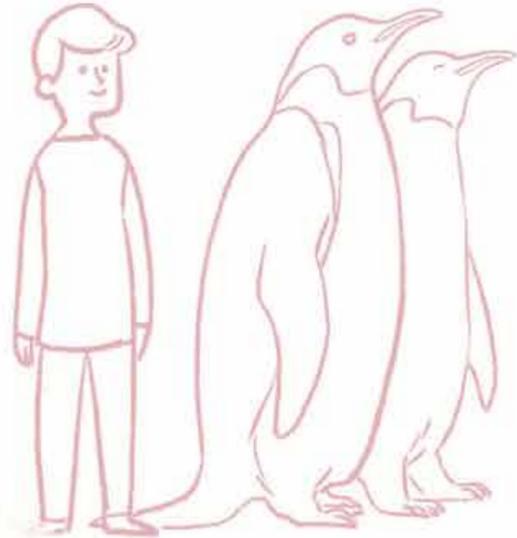
# EMPEROR PENGUIN

We live in one of the coldest places on earth, at the very bottom of the globe. And yet, we manage to hatch an egg in the icy snow and give our chicks enough warmth.



# Who am I?

**Name:** emperor penguin  
**Class:** birds



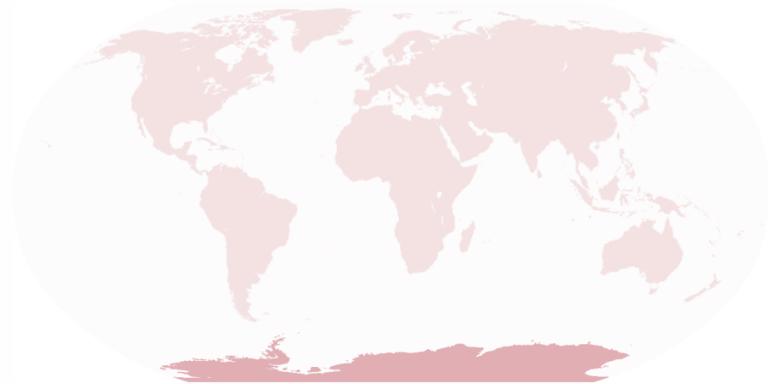
**Size:** 43-50 inches (110-130 centimeters); males and females are the same size; males are a little heavier

**Legs:** 2 short legs with webbed claws.



sharp **claws** give **grip** on the ice

**Habitat:** ice fields on the South Pole (Antarctica)



**Speed:**

On land, I waddle forward slowly, or I let myself slide downhill on my belly. In the water, I'm a good swimmer.



**Best mommy and daddy**

Daddy hatches the egg for two months without eating anything. Then, mommy takes care of the chick on her own for a month. Afterwards, daddy and mommy take turns getting food.

**Enemies:**

Big birds of prey like the **south polar skua** often attack young penguins.



orcas



sharks



leopard seals

crooked beak with **orange stripe**



on the side of the head, a **golden-yellow spot** that goes on as far as the neck

**short wings** serve to keep my **balance** on the land

I have a **layer of fat** that's 1.5 inches (4 centimeters) thick, and an impenetrable **plumage**. That way, I'm **protected** against the biting wind and the freezing water.

Only emperor penguins hatch an **egg** in the **winter**. The winter in Antarctica lasts from April till October. That's a lot of dark months without sun.

**From January to March**, I look for **food** in the ocean, day and night. I can dive up to 1640 feet (500 meters) deep and stay underwater for 20 minutes. With my paws, I regulate how deep I want to **swim**. I steer to the left or to the right with my short tail. My wings are used as paddles.

**Starting in April**, I move away from the pack ice with other penguins. We take a **long trip** to a **breeding ground** inland. Sometimes, more than 62 miles (100 kilometers) away! We breed together with **thousands** of others.

**Food:** fish, krill, squid



All penguins stand **close together** in a circle. Whoever is standing on the outer edge slowly moves to the middle, where it's nice and warm. That way, we **take turns** enjoying the **warmth**.