

Penguins — Funny Birds of the Cold

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A penguin is a special **bird** that cannot **fly**. It has small wings, but it uses them to swim, not to fly in the sky. A penguin's body is **black** on the back and white on the front. It walks on two short legs and has a long **tail** to help it balance. Penguins look very funny when they walk on **land**!

Most penguins live in very **cold** places. Many live near the **ice** and **snow** at the bottom of the world. They love the sea. A penguin can swim very fast and stay underwater for many minutes. Its little wings help it move through the water like a fish.

Penguins love to **eat fish**. They jump into the cold **sea** to **catch** many small fish each day. They also eat tiny animals called krill. A hungry penguin can eat a lot of food! It needs this food to keep its body warm in the cold.

Mother and father penguins take very good care of their babies. The mother lays one **egg**. Then the father keeps the egg warm on his feet. After about two months, a small baby penguin comes out. The baby is soft and gray, not black and white like its parents.

Penguins live together in big groups called colonies. Thousands of penguins can live in one place! They keep each other warm and safe. So next time you see a penguin, smile and remember — this funny bird is one of the best swimmers in the world.

A. Vocabulary

1. bird ____	a. having a low temperature; not warm
2. fly ____	b. an animal that lives in water and has fins for swimming
3. black ____	c. the color of the night sky; the darkest color
4. tail ____	d. soft white pieces of frozen water that fall from the sky
5. land ____	e. to put food in your mouth and swallow it
6. cold ____	f. an animal with feathers, wings, and two legs
7. ice ____	g. to move through the air using wings
8. snow ____	h. the long part at the back end of an animal
9. eat ____	i. the dry part of the Earth, not water

10. fish ____ j. water that has become hard because it is very cold

B. True or False

1. A penguin is a bird that can fly in the sky. ____
2. A penguin is black on the back and white on the front. ____
3. Penguins use their wings to swim. ____
4. Most penguins live in very hot places. ____
5. Penguins can stay underwater for many minutes. ____
6. Penguins eat fish and tiny animals called krill. ____
7. The mother penguin keeps the egg warm on her feet. ____
8. A baby penguin is soft and gray when it comes out of the egg. ____
9. Penguins live together in big groups called colonies. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: fish, cold, ice, bird, fly

1. A penguin is a special _____ that cannot fly.

2. A penguin has small wings, but it cannot _____ in the sky.

3. Most penguins live in very _____ places.

4. Many penguins live near the _____ and snow at the bottom of the world.

5. Penguins jump into the sea to catch many small _____.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What does a penguin look like, and how does it use its wings?

2. Where do most penguins live?

3. What do penguins eat, and how do they catch their food?

4. How do mother and father penguins take care of their baby?

5. Why do penguins live together in big groups?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a penguin? Where was it?

2. What other animals live in cold places?

3. Why is it important to take care of animals like penguins?





Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-f, 2-g, 3-c, 4-h, 5-i, 6-a, 7-j, 8-d, 9-e, 10-b

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-bird, 2-fly, 3-cold, 4-ice, 5-fish

D. Comprehension:

1. A penguin is black on the back and white on the front, with small wings that it uses to swim, not to fly.
2. Most penguins live in very cold places, especially near the ice and snow at the bottom of the world.
3. Penguins eat fish and tiny animals called krill. They jump into the cold sea and swim fast to catch them.
4. The mother lays one egg, then the father keeps it warm on his feet for about two months until the baby comes out.
5. Penguins live in colonies of thousands so they can keep each other warm and safe in the cold.

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