



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Well-Being



JANUARY
Animal Holidays

- **National Bird Day**
January 5
- **Penguin Awareness Day**
January 20
- **Squirrel Appreciation Day**
January 21

JANUARY 2024

ANIMAL NEWS

A CLOSER LOOK



JANUARY 20

PENGUIN

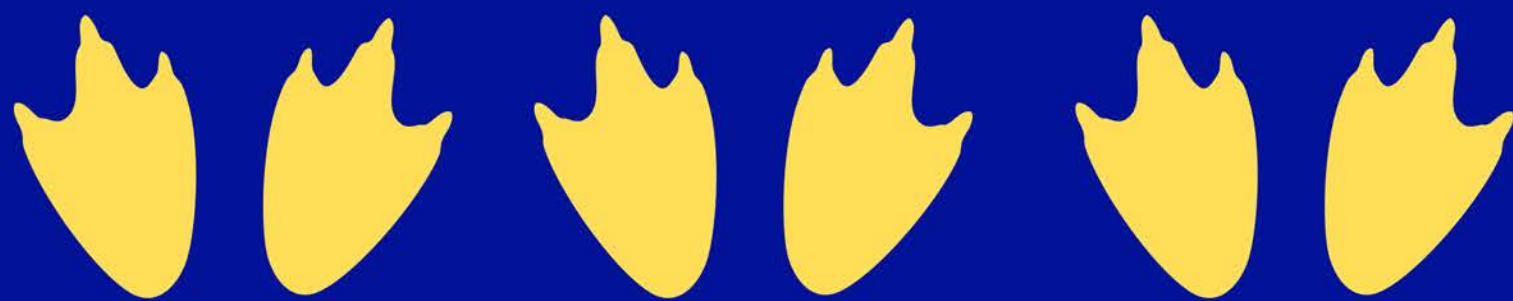
AWARENESS DAY!

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY K-2 distance learning program for African Penguins in English or Spanish

JANUARY 19. REGISTER at

https://sites.google.com/calacademy.org/dl-penguins-jan2024/teachers?utm_campaign=educator_enevs_20231218&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Mailjet or use the QR code to register by JANUARY 12.

- Penguins are birds, but do not fly.
- They mostly live in the Southern Hemisphere in Antarctica, Argentina, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, and South Africa, but one group, the Galápagos penguin, lives in a different part of the world.
- Penguins spend half their time in water and half on land.
- Penguins are known to be great swimmers, waddlers, and belly sliders!
- Penguins have waterproof feathers and are able to tolerate cold temperatures for a long time with an insulating layer of fat on their body.
- There are 18 recognized species of penguins. Each species has unique characteristics, including size, coloration, and behavior. Some of the penguin species include: Little Blue, Crested, Fairy, Gentoo, Galapagos, Emperor and African. Several species are endangered or declining.
- Most penguins eat krill, fish, squid, and other types of sea life that they can catch and swallow whole while they swim in the water.
- Predators of penguins include sharks, orcas and leopard seals. To defend themselves, penguins live in large groups, less likely to be targeted by their predators.
- Although humans used to hunt penguins for their eggs and meat, they were particularly targeted for their fat to make oil for fuel, lighting material and for tanning leather; the skin to make handbags, slippers, and hats, and the feathers to fill pillows and mattresses or decorate clothing. PENGUINS ARE NOW PROTECTED.



From: 35 Interesting Penguin Facts For Kids 2023 [With Pictures]
<https://www.coolkidfacts.com/penguin-facts/3/21>

ENDANGERED PENGUIN SPECIES

Established in 1964, the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species has evolved to become the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species. Five of 18 penguin species, African, Yellow-eyed, Erect-crested, Galapagos, and Northern Rockhopper, are listed as endangered and several others are vulnerable due to various reasons including climate change melting the ice habitats, avian disease, deforestation, overfishing, unethical fishing, and oil spills.
<https://www.iucnredlist.org>

AFRICAN PENGUIN

LIVE CAM SAN DIEGO ZOO

<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cameras>

Covered in black, white, and gray dense, waterproof feathers that keep them dry and warm, African penguins live in colonies on 24 islands along Africa's southwestern coast. African penguins also have a dot-like markings across their white chests, as individual as a human fingerprints. Each feather is equipped with small muscles that can hold it firmly against the body to create a waterproof layer for diving, or maintain an insulating air pocket around the penguin's core for explorations on land.

African penguins have a distinct, sharply pointed beak and black feet. The African penguin is one of the smallest penguin species. They also have a patch of bare skin above each eye, which helps them cope with high temperatures in South Africa. The hotter the penguin gets, the more blood flows to these areas, and the bare patch gets pinker as the penguin warms up, but also allows cooling.

The largest colony is located on Dyer Island. The birds build nests in sand or deposits of their excrement, called guano, or under bushes or rocks. These penguins can hold their breath over 2 minutes by slowing their heart rate and dive using their flipper like wings over 400 feet deep! A penguin may eat up to 1 pound of food or 14 percent of its body weight per day.

African penguins may remaining with the same partner for several years and return to the same breeding site and typically produce two eggs each year. Both parents feed and care for their hatchlings for about a month. Chicks then are moved for 2-4 months to a communal daycare known as a crèche. Once they develop their juvenile feathers, they are ready to forage at sea with their parents. African penguins can live as long as 27 years in the wild, and potentially longer in captivity.

African penguins are also known as "jackass" penguins: because they communicate with a loud call similar to a donkey's bray. They communicate with three kinds of call: the defensive yell, the bray with head swinging to attract and keep a mate, and the haw, which used by the pair to keep in contact when one is on land and the other is in the water.

AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Adaptations: What adaptations help penguins survive?

QUESTIONS:

- Penguins are born with grey fuzz, but they develop a black feathers on their back and white feathers on their bellies. Scientists call that **COUNTERSHADING**. How do you think these colors help them survive?
- Penguins also have long **fin-like feathers** and a long streamlined body. How do these types of wings help them get food?
- Penguins have **oil ducts** at the base of their tail and they use their beaks to put it on their feathers. Why?
- Penguins have **large stiff webbed feet**. Why do they need this type of feet?
- What other adaptations do you see on penguins that help them in cold weather, on land and in the water?

OTHER FUN FACTS ABOUT PENGUINS & THINK ABOUT THIS!

- Many male penguins gift female penguins with rocks in order to woo them. The females use these rocks to build a nest.
- **THINK ABOUT THIS!** Contrary to many popular holiday cartoons, you'll never see penguins and polar bears together in the wild. **WHY NOT?**

ANSWERS: Countershading: When swimming, the black on their backs helps them blend in with the darkness of the ocean from predators viewing from above. Their white bellies help them blend in with the bright surface of the ocean when viewed by predators and prey from below.

Fin-like feathers & body shape: Most birds have hollow, air-filled bones to help them stay light for flight. Penguins adapted with solid bones instead. This helps them swim because solid bones reduce buoyancy—the tendency to float.

Oil ducts: A gland near the base of its tail provides waterproof oil. Penguins spend several hours each day covering their feathers with this oil and give extra attention to the task before swimming.

Webbed feet: Some species of penguins can march up to about 60 miles across sea ice to get to their breeding grounds. Penguin feet are also adapted to help the birds steer while swimming. They use their feet like rudders, angling them to help control direction.

THINK ABOUT THIS: Penguins mostly live south of the equator while polar bears north of the equator!

