



**WWF** *for a living planet*

**WWF-UK**

Panda House, Weyside Park  
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR  
Britdoc DX 58352 Godalming 2  
t: +44 (0)1483 426444  
f: +44 (0)1483 426409  
[www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk)

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## Penguins in black and white

- ❖ All 117 penguin species of the world live in the Southern Hemisphere. None can be found in the Arctic
- ❖ **Adélie** penguins are the archetypal penguins that are supposed to look like men in their dinner jackets. They have a distinctive white ring around their eye that is most pronounced during the breeding season
- ❖ The **Adélie** penguin lives on or close to sea ice all its life but only breeds on land without ice
- ❖ **Adélie's** use pebbles to line their nest sites, and will often pinch stones from their neighbours
- ❖ **Gentoo** penguins are easily recognisable by the white bonnet on their heads and their orange/red beaks and feet
- ❖ **Gentoo** penguins live further north than any of the three other 'Antarctic' penguin species and are the fastest underwater swimming bird, reaching speeds of 36km/h (22.3mph)
- ❖ **Chinstrap** penguins are easily distinguished by the thin black stripe across the bottom of their throat
- ❖ **Chinstrap** penguins are sometimes called "stone cracker" penguins because of their piercing voices. Other names are "ringed penguin" and "bearded penguin"
- ❖ **Chinstrap** penguins communicate through ritual behaviours of head and flipper waving, calling, bowing, gesturing, and preening. Stares, pointing, and charging may occur when territorial disputes arise
- ❖ The largest penguin in the world, the **Emperor** Penguin is the only one that breeds during the cold, harsh winter, surviving through blizzards, darkness, and temperatures as low as -49°C
- ❖ At Point Géologie on the Antarctic Peninsula, the **Emperor** Penguin population has declined by 50 per cent over the past 50 years
- ❖ Of all the Antarctic bird and mammal species, the **Emperor** Penguin has become the most vulnerable to the rapidly changing climate. It needs stable, land-locked sea ice on which to breed. It is too clumsy to climb over icy, coastal slopes.
- ❖ Early Antarctic explorers actually thought penguins were fish and classified them accordingly. In fact, as birds, they are superbly designed for their job, flying underwater with great skill.
- ❖ Penguins have more feathers than most other birds, with about 70 feathers per square inch.
- ❖ The blackish upperparts and whitish under parts of penguins are an effective camouflage. Penguins are harder to see against the lighter sky when viewed from below, and the darker waters when viewed from above. This makes them harder to spot by both predators and prey.



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