

Penguins in Antarctica

Discussion Questions:

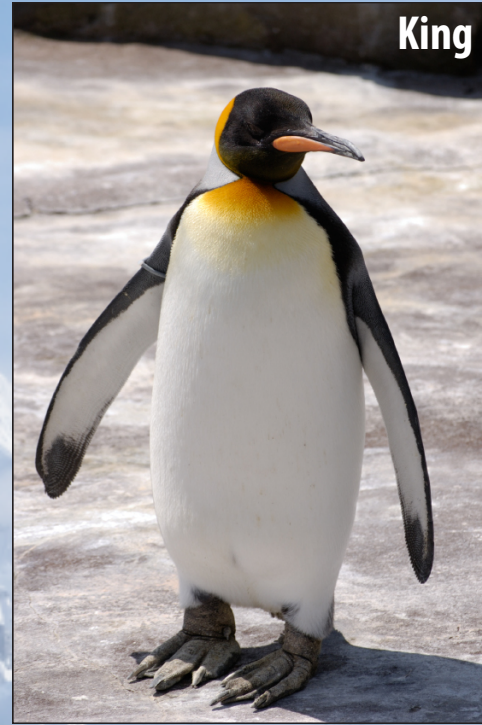
- 1) How many species of penguin live in Antarctica?
- 2) What is the largest species of penguin inhabiting Antarctica?
- 3) What do penguins eat?
- 4) How do penguins feed their young?
- 5) How have penguins adapted to their harsh environment?

*Penguin
Species
Native to
Antarctic
Regions*

Emperor



King



Adélie



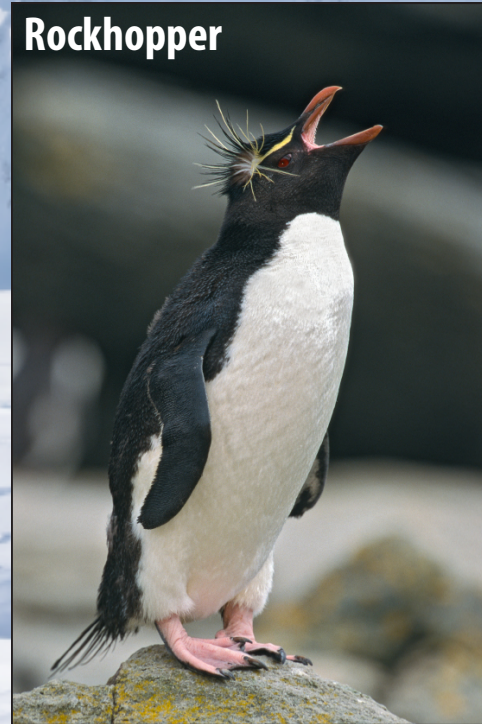
Gentoo



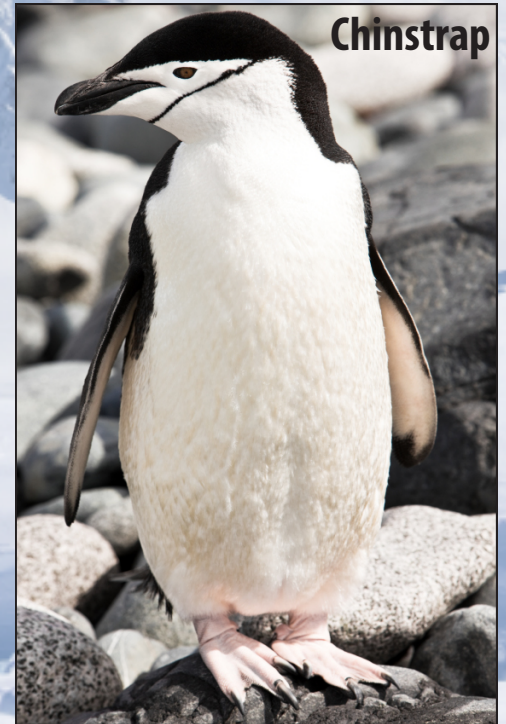
Macaroni



Rockhopper



Chinstrap

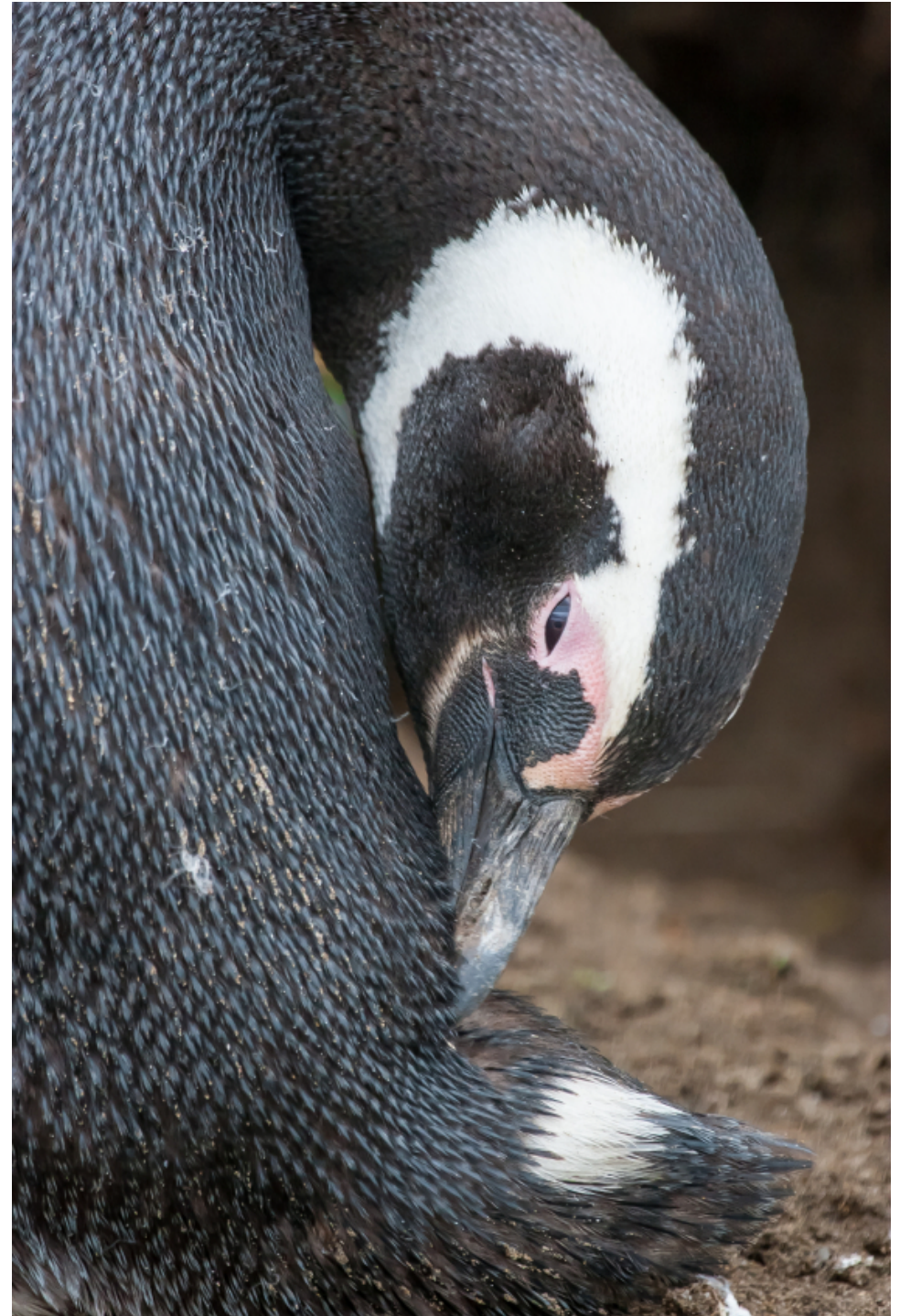




Penguins have a thick layer of fat under their skin which prevents the loss of body heat. This fat layer is a form of insulation for their body.

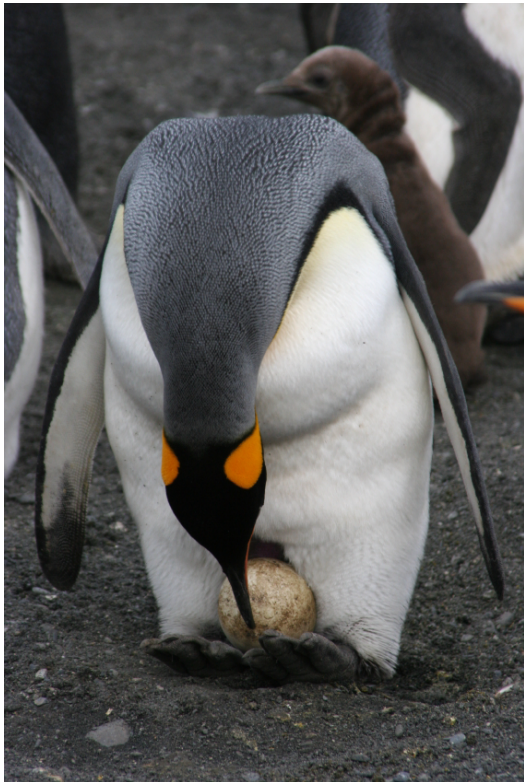
Penguins have two layers of overlapping feathers. The inner layer is soft and downy and traps air. The air helps them keep warm. The outside layer consists of small stiff feathers. These are coated in a thin layer of oil when the bird preens itself. The overlapping feathers help waterproof and windproof the bird.

Penguins have flipper shaped wings and webbed feet that are vital for swimming. They propel themselves through the water (and the air) using their flippers.



The Emperor penguin is the only penguin that breeds during the winter. Adult Emperor penguins travel inland to lay their eggs enduring very harsh conditions. They hold their eggs on top of their feet using their own body heat to incubate their eggs. The mating pair take turns to hunt and to care for their young.

King penguins also hold their eggs on top of their feet using their body heat to incubate their eggs. The young of the King penguin are brown and the young of the Emperor penguin are grey.



Penguins take turns to hunt for food. They swim in the waters near their breeding grounds looking for small fish to eat before returning to the breeding grounds. Once they find their family they regurgitate their partially digested food to feed their young.

Antarctic Penguin Facts



Emperor Penguin

Population:

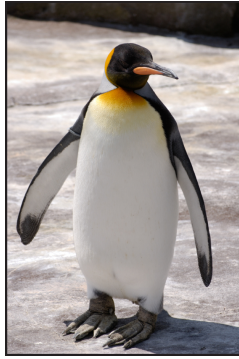
600 000

Average Height:

115 cm (45 inches)

Breeding Grounds:

Antarctic Continent



King Penguin

Population:

2.23 million pairs

Average Height:

90 cm (35 inches)

Breeding Grounds:

Falkland, South Georgia, South Sandwich, Prince Edward, Crozet, Kerguelen, Heard and Macquarie Islands.



Gentoo Penguin

Population:

300 000

Average Height:

71 cm (28 inches)

Breeding Grounds:

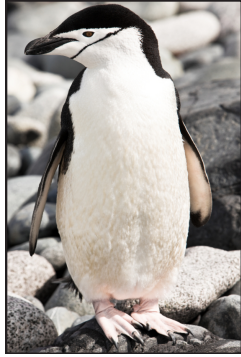
Antarctica, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, South Sandwich, Prince Edward, Crozet, Kerguelen, Heard and Macquarie Islands



Can you find our breeding grounds on the map?



Antarctic Penguin Facts



Macaroni Penguin

Population: 12 million pairs
Average Height: 71 cm (28 inches)
Breeding Grounds: Southern Argentina and Chile, Prince Edward, Crozet, Keruelen, Heard, Macquarie, Bouvet, South Sandwich, South Georgia, South Orkney, South Shetland, Falkland Islands

Rockhopper Penguin

Population: 4 million pairs
Average Height: 55 cm (21.6 inches)
Breeding Grounds: Prince Edward, Crozet, Kerguelen, McDonald, Heard and Macquarie and Falkland Islands, Southern Argentina and Chile.

Adelie Penguin

Population: 2.5 million pairs
Average Height: 70 cm (27.5 inches)
Breeding Grounds: Antarctic Continent, Bouvet, South Orkney, South Shetland Islands

Chinstrap Penguin

Population: 7.5 million pairs
Average Height: 71 - 76 cm (28 - 30 inches)
Breeding Grounds: Antarctic Continent, South Shetland, South Georgia, South Sandwich, Bouvet, Kerguelen, Heard, Scott Islands

Can you find our breeding grounds on the map?

