



Penguin
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"Most penguins swim underwater at around four to seven miles per hour (mph), but the fastest penguin—the gentoo (*Pygoscelis papua*)—can reach top speeds of 22 mph!"

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/14-fun-facts-about-penguins-41774295/>

A penguin's black and white feathers help keep them camouflaged. From above, the black on their backs makes them hard to see underneath the water so things that want to eat them (like leopard seals) have a hard time seeing them from above.

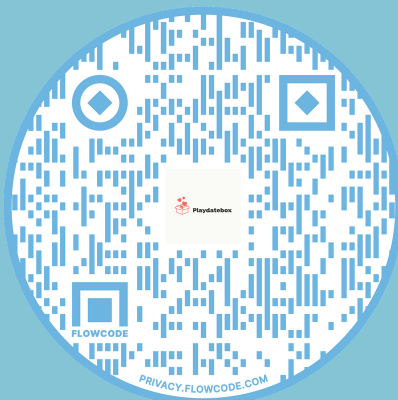
From below, their white bellies make them blend in with the sunlight, so it's easier for them to hunt for fish and krill.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/14-fun-facts-about-penguins-41774295/>

Penguins don't have any teeth! Instead, they have fleshy spines on the inside of their mouth that help them swallow fish.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/14-fun-facts-about-penguins-41774295/>

All penguins live in the southern hemisphere. They can survive in a very cold climate!



Scan this code with the camera app on a smartphone to learn more about penguins!

Penguins accidentally swallow lots of salty water when they are eating fish from the ocean. They have a special gland that filters out the salt, and one way they get rid of the extra salt is by sneezing!

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/56416/20-fun-facts-about-penguins-world-penguin-day>



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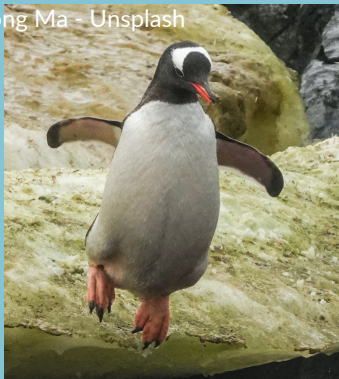
A penguin's feathers help trap a layer of warm air next to their skin. This insulates the penguin and helps keep it warm.

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/56416/20-fun-facts-about-penguins-world-penguin-day>

Is there a zoo or an aquarium near you where you can see real penguins? Ask a grownup if you can visit!

Take a paper and pencils so you can draw some of the details you notice when you see penguins up close!

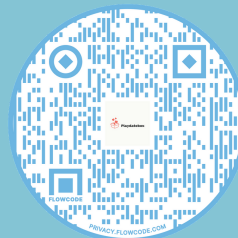
Image: Long Ma - Unsplash



<https://thelivingplanet.com/animal/gentoo-penguin/>

Gentoo penguins are the fastest swimmers of all penguins. They will dive up to 450 times per day to find food. They can hold their breath for seven minutes!

Many zoos and research facilities have a "Penguin Cam" that allows you to watch penguins swimming and diving. Just Google "Penguin Cam" and find your favorite zoo, or scan the code below to see the penguin cam at the Kansas City Zoo!



How do penguins stay warm in such a cold place?

1. They have a lot of fat under their skin that helps keep them warm.
2. Their feathers are very waxy and repel water easily.
3. They rock back on their heels when they are standing on the ice so that less of their webbed foot is touching the cold surface.

https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/science/cold_penguins.php

Image: Siggv Nowak - Pixabay

Emperor penguins huddle together in large groups to stay warm. The male penguins hold eggs on top of their feet under a pouch of skin to keep the eggs warm until the babies hatch.

