# The Emperor Penguin

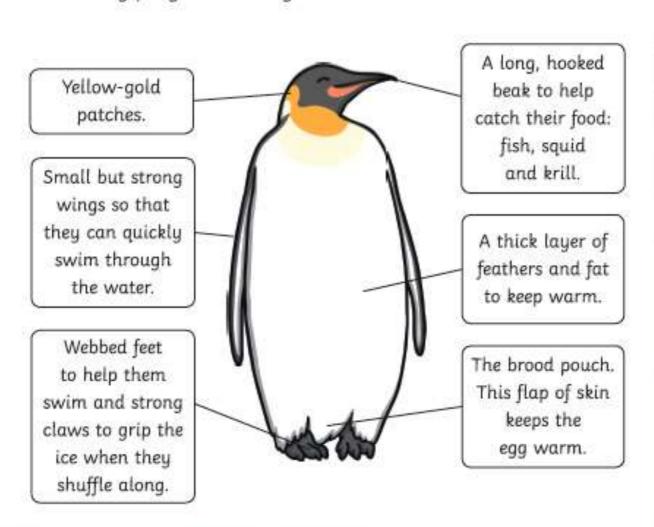
The emperor penguin is the largest of the 17 types of penguins. Penguins are birds but they cannot fly. Instead, their flipper-like wings and webbed feet help them to swim well.

#### Habitat

Emperor penguins live in the coldest place on Earth: Antarctica. They survive because they have a thick layer of feathers and fat to keep them warm. When it is very cold, they stand together in a huge group called a huddle.

#### Body

The adult emperor penguin can grow to about 130cm tall. That is about the same as a six year old boy or girl! They look similar to the king penguin but they are much taller.



## Life Cycle

## Egg Laying

The female lays
one egg in May. It
uses up a lot of her
energy. She carefully
passes it to the male
and returns to
the ocean.

### Breeding

The young penguins return when they are about five years old.

In April, the penguins find a mate.



The male keeps the egg
warm through the winter in
his brood pouch on top of
his feet. In July, the female
returns from hunting to feed
the chick food from
her tummy.



By December, the sea ice has melted and the chicks leave the colony (fledge) and waddle along the ice to the sea.

## Moulting

The chicks lose their soft, fluffy, down feathers and grow sleek, waterproof ones. This is called moulting.