

Emperor Penguins

By Shane

I like Emperor Penguins. Emperor penguins are the largest kind of penguins. These flightless birds lead a very complex social life in the cold Antarctic environment. Each female lays one egg and then leaves the colony to make her way to the ocean to feed. The males shelter the eggs on top of their feet the entire time the females are gone. The females return soon after the eggs have hatched to care for the chicks while the males return to the ocean to feed. Habitat: Emperor Penguins live on the ice sheets of Antarctica, one of the Earth's most hostile environments. During the dark Antarctic winter, temperatures drop to -80 degrees F or -62 degrees C and winds can exceed 100 miles or 160 kilometers per hour. Diet: Fish make up the main food source for Emperor penguins, but they also eat krill, squid, and crustaceans. Emperor penguins catch their food by diving into the cold waters around Antarctica. They can dive over 1000 feet or 305 meters deep and stay under water as long as 20 minutes. Survival: Emperor penguins mate for life. It is estimated that as many as 200,000 breeding pairs of emperor penguins live on the permanent ice sheets of Antarctica. Because of the harsh environment, many penguin chicks die each year.

No Picture Done