

Penguins Are Amazing Birds



People sometimes think penguins are silly animals that are dressed up in fancy black suits called tuxedos. But looks can be deceiving. Penguins are amazing! When explorers first saw penguins in Antarctica, they thought they were fish. Penguins are actually birds. They have feathers, beaks, and wings. They also lay eggs. There are 17 different kinds, or species, of penguins, but all of them make their home near the ocean.

Even though penguins are birds, they can't fly in the air. In fact, penguins are amazing swimmers and spend most of their time in the water. Their bodies are built to swim. Penguins have heavier bones than most birds. This helps them dive very deep in the water. They have strong wings and webbed feet like a duck. This helps them swim fast. When penguins dive into the water, they can swim up to 25 miles an hour. Some can stay underwater for up to 25 minutes!

Penguins dive into the water to find prey, or food to eat. Penguins eat

fish, squid, and krill, which are like little lobsters or snails. Even though penguins don't have teeth, they have strong beaks and can swallow their prey in one piece. Penguins have strong little hairs in their mouths and down their throats called bristles to help them swallow the slippery fish.

Most penguins live in very cold places, like Antarctica. Their bodies protect them from the freezing water and air. They have lots of waterproof feathers to keep them dry and a thick layer of fat called blubber to keep them warm. The feathers on their backs are also very dark, which helps them absorb heat from the sun.



Even though people sometimes think penguins are cute animals all dressed up for a party, they are fascinating creatures that are built to survive in a harsh habitat.