MEET THE PENGUIN

ABOUT ME

I'm an African Penguin. We are also known as the black-footed penguin and the jackass penguin. I have a black face and nape (neck) with a white stripe that runs around the back of my face and connects at my throat and chest. My eyes are brown and my legs and feet are black with spots of pink.

What colour are your eyes?

DID YOU KNOW?

I have small pink glands above my eyes, which help me to cope with high temperatures. Blood is sent to my glands where it is cooled by the surrounding air, which keeps me cooler. My glands get pinker the hotter it gets. I love to find shade or swim in water to cool down when it is hot.

How do you protect yourself from the sun when it is too hot?

DID YOU KNOW?

We are great divers!

When I dive, I can stay under water for about two to three minutes, and I can dive about 30m deep. Some penguins have reached up to 130m deep! That's really deep.

How long can you hold your breath under water?

TOP THREATS

We have SO many threats! In the water our biggest threats are leopard seals, sharks and killer whales to name a few. On land we are hunted by snakes, feral dogs and cats. Our eggs get taken by predator birds. Our species has been in danger for a long time due to overfishing, habitat destruction, coastal development and a number of other human actions. This has resulted in over 90% of us disappearing!

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

We are only found on the south-western coast of Africa. We move large amounts of nutrients from the ocean to our colonies, which helps our ecosystem and other marine areas to work well. Our poop is washed into the sea, which helps algae to grow. This, in turn, helps the growth of other marine life which supports shorebirds and other marine invertebrates. We help with the access to food for other species, like herding schools of fish upwards where other birds can feed on them.



MY NAMES

My name, **PENGUIN**, comes from two Welsh words, pen and gwyn, which mean 'head' and 'white'. We are also known as the **JACKASS PENGUIN** because of the donkey-like braying sound we make.

How many names do you have?

WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

We are **CARNIVORES.**

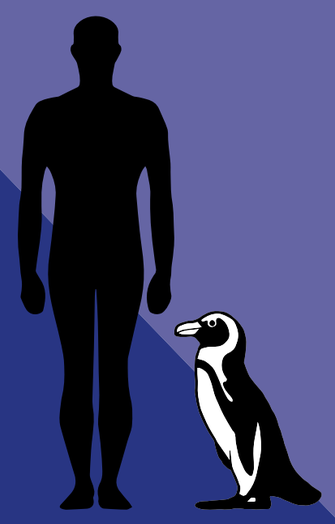
We like to eat small fish such as pilchards, anchovies, horse mackerel and herring. Sometimes we eat squid and crustaceans in places where there are few fish left, due to overfishing.

Do you like to eat fish?

MY FAMILY

A group of penguins in the water is called a 'raft' but on land we're called 'waddles'. Other names for a group of penguins include rookery, colony, and huddle.

Most penguins are monogamous meaning, we have one mate for life.



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