

## Snowy Owl

Snowy owls live in the cold, treeless Arctic tundra in the Northern Hemisphere. Instead of living in trees like other birds, they can be found living and hunting on the ground. Snowy owls prefer living in these open areas because this is where they have the best view of their prey.

Snowy owls are carnivores. Their favorite food is lemmings, which are rodents similar to mice. Snowy owls eat three to five lemmings per day. That can total up to 1,500 lemmings eaten per year! Rabbits, birds, fish, and other rodents also make tasty meals for snowy owls.

Male snowy owls become nearly pure white as they grow older. Females are darker and never turn completely white. Instead, females retain, or keep, black or brown markings on their breast, wings, back, and head. Female snowy owls are slightly larger than males. Females weigh about five pounds and males weigh about four pounds. Females build the nests on high ground so they can keep watch for predators. Females lay three to eleven eggs in the nest at a time.



**Snowy owls have rounded heads, yellow eyes, and a black beak.**

Snowy owls are **diurnal**, which means they are active during the daytime and at night. Their thick feathers provide warmth and insulation in the cold Arctic climate. Snowy owls have rounded heads, yellow eyes, and black beaks. They can live about nine years in the wild.

## Penguin Diet

Penguins eat sea life. They eat animals they catch in the ocean. Smaller penguins eat krill and squid. The larger penguins eat fish. They catch krill, squid, and fish with their bills while they dive through the water. Penguins have spiny tongues and strong jaws to help them capture their prey. Penguins eat while they swim swallowing their food whole. Penguins are able to drink seawater.



Gentoo penguin eating

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## All About Penguins

Penguins are one of winter's most popular animals. Many people know what penguins look like, but not a lot about their habitats and characteristics.

Penguins can be found in many different parts of the Southern hemisphere. Plenty of people imagine penguins as living in very cold areas such as Antarctica. However, they also live in warmer areas such as Australia and South Africa. Despite common misconceptions, you won't find any penguins living in the North Pole!

Penguins are flightless birds but can swim! In fact, they can stay under water for up to 20 minutes at a time. Penguins usually eat fish and other seawater animals such as squid and octopus. Not all penguins are the same, there are at least 17 different species of penguins and their habits differ based on where they live.

## EMPEROR PENGUINS

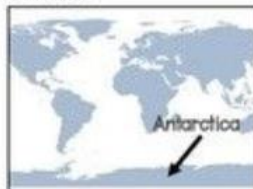


The emperor penguin is the largest of the penguin species. They can grow to be between 44-48 inches tall. They are very easy to spot because of their black heads and white bellies.

Emperor penguins are mostly found in Antarctica. They spend their lives on the Antarctic ice and the surrounding waters.

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They search for food in the ocean and mainly eat krill, fish, and squid. They are great swimmers and are even able to hold their breath under water for twenty minutes!

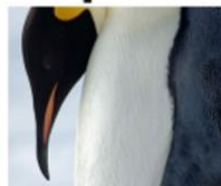


How can emperor penguins survive the cold? The body of an emperor penguin has layers of blubber or fat that helps to keep them warm.

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## Emperor Penguins!



Emperor penguins are the largest of all penguins. They are almost 4 feet tall. These large birds cannot fly.

Emperor penguins live in Antarctica year-round. Almost all creatures, except Emperor penguins, leave Antarctica in winter. They stay on icy plains in winter and dive for fish in summer.



Emperor penguins adapt to their environment. To stay warm in winter, they clump together in a large group. They take turns moving to the middle of the group where it's less windy and cold.

Unlike most birds, Emperor penguins mate in winter. Females lay one egg and then leave to go hunt for fish, squid, and krill. Males care for the eggs. The eggs hatch after two months.

