

公众号：Wecancan

# Penguins!

## National Geographic Readers: Penguins!

By: Anne Schreiber

Penguins are now nature's rock stars. March this way, and find out all!

**6-8**

Age Range

**15-30 mins**

Length

**750L**

Lexile<sup>®</sup> Measure

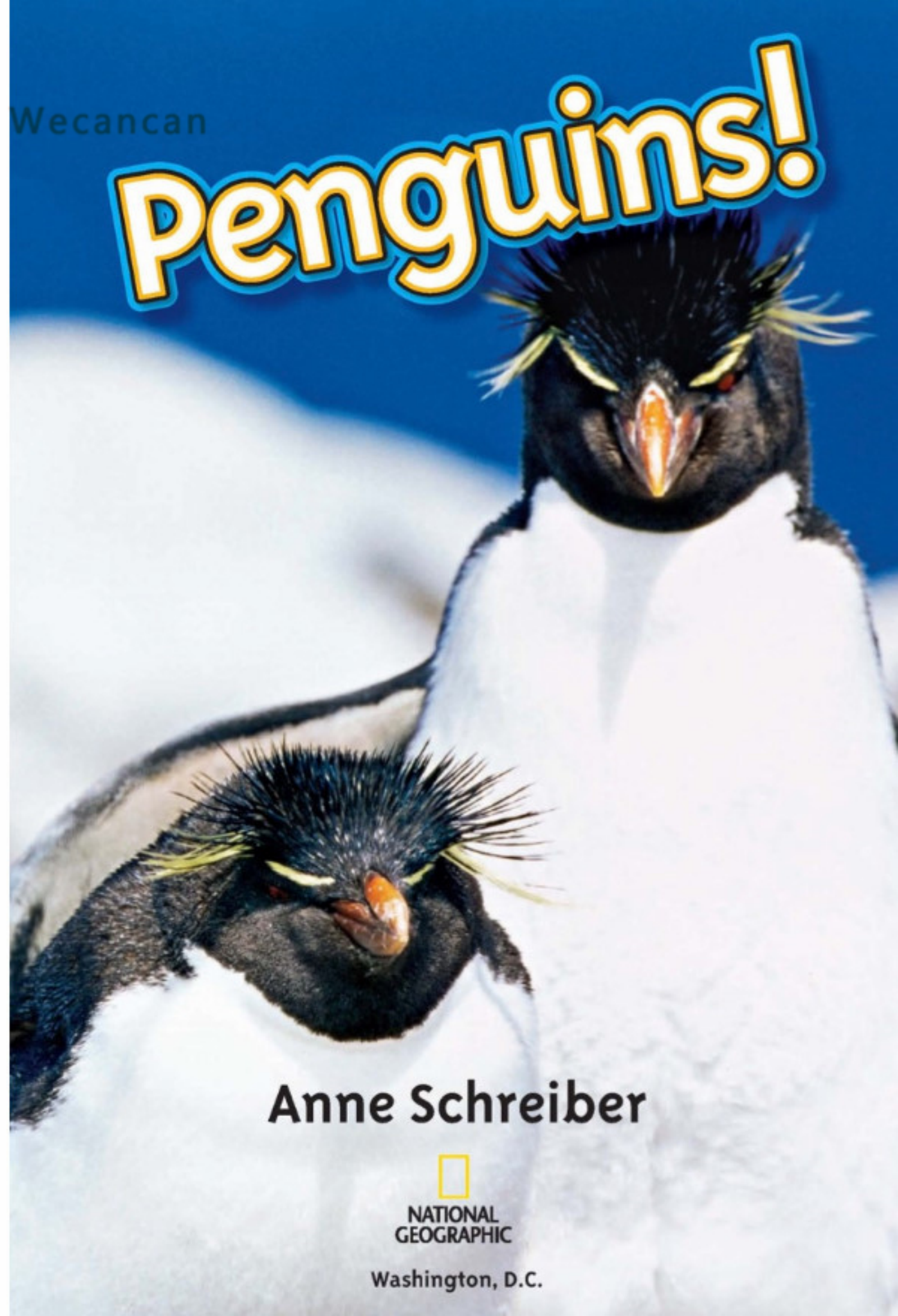
**3.8**

AR Level

**Anne Schreiber**



Washington, D.C.



# What Are They?

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What birds cannot fly?  
What birds spend most of their  
lives in the ocean but are not fish?  
What birds live in the coldest part  
of the world — all year long?

They swim, they march, they  
slide through the snow.

They are penguins.

EMPEROR PENGUINS



# Where Are They?

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## BIRD WORDS

**EQUATOR:** An imaginary line halfway between the North and South Poles.

**COAST:** Where land meets water.

All penguins live between the Equator and the South Pole. Some live where it's very cold. Some live in warmer places like the coasts of Africa or Australia.

Penguins live on islands, on coasts, and even on icebergs in the sea. They just need to be near water, because they spend most of their lives IN the water.

# Not Just Any Bird

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Q

What did the penguin do when he got upset?

He flipped out.

A

Penguins are perfect for their lives at sea. They have a sleek shape for speed. A layer of blubber keeps them warm.

EMPEROR PENGUIN

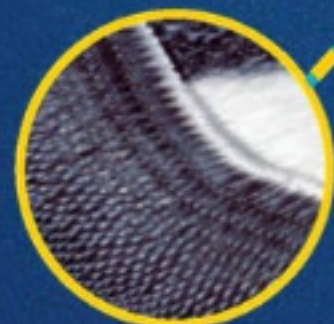


Stiff flippers act like boat paddles to push and steer.

Big eyes to see underwater.



Big webbed feet for better steering.



Layers of soft feathers trap heat. Stiff, oily feathers on top keep out water.

**BIRD WORDS**

WEBBED: Connected by skin.



Did the penguin leap out of the water by accident?

No, he did it on purpose!



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Their black backs make them hard to see from above. Their light bellies make them hard to see from below. But it's their strong, solid flippers that help them escape predators and get where they want to go.

Penguins can swim about 15 miles an hour. When they want to go faster, they leap out of the water as they swim. It's called porpoising (por-puh-sing), because it's what porpoises do.

GENTOO PENGUINS

A predator is an animal that eats other animals.

# What's for Dinner?

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Q

What's a penguin's favorite food?

A

An ice burger!



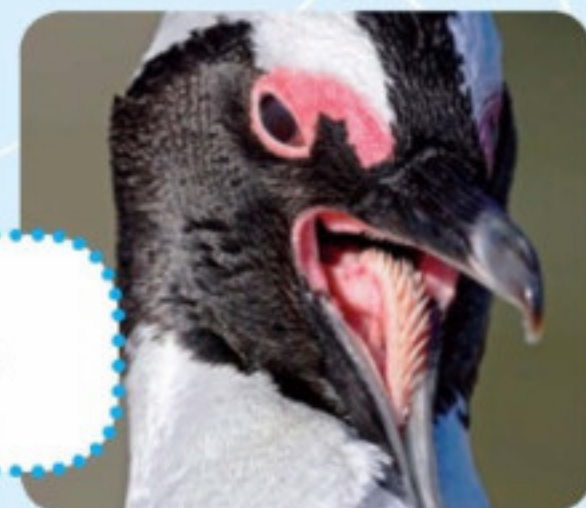
HUMBOLT PENGUIN

Life in the ocean is fish-*elicious*! Penguins eat a lot of fish. They have a hooked bill, or beak, to help them grab their dinner. Barbs on their tongues and in their throats help them to hold on to slippery food.

Would you like a drink of salty water to go with that fish? Penguins are able to clean the salt out of ocean water. They get fresh water to drink and the salt dribbles back into the ocean.

## BIRD WORDS

**BARB:** Something sharp and pointy like a hook.



## BIRD WORDS

**MARINE MAMMALS:** Have fur and give birth to live young; unlike other mammals, they spend most of their time in the ocean.



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**GENTOO PENGUINS AND A SKUA**

While penguins are slurping down their dinners, they have to be careful not to end up as dinner themselves. Penguins are the favorite food of marine mammals such as leopard seals and killer whales.

Penguins are also in danger on land. Birds like the skua, the Australian sea eagle, and the giant petrel eat penguins. Even cats, snakes, foxes, and rats eat penguins when they can.

# Life on Land

KING PENGUINS



## BIRD WORDS

COLONY: A group of animals who live together.

## Wecancan

On land, most penguins live in a large colony with thousands or even millions of other penguins. If it's cold, they huddle together. It's so warm inside a huddle that penguins take turns moving to the outside to cool off.



KING PENGUIN HUDDLE

Penguins march together to get to their nesting grounds. Once there they wave, strut, shake, call, nod, dance, and sing to find a mate. Most penguins stay with their mate for many years.



# A Chick Is Born

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Q

How was the penguins' walk to their nesting grounds?

Egg-cellent.

A

Most penguins lay two eggs at a time, but often only one egg survives. The mother and father take turns keeping the egg warm. When it hatches, the parents keep the chick warm and fed.

ADELIE CHICKS



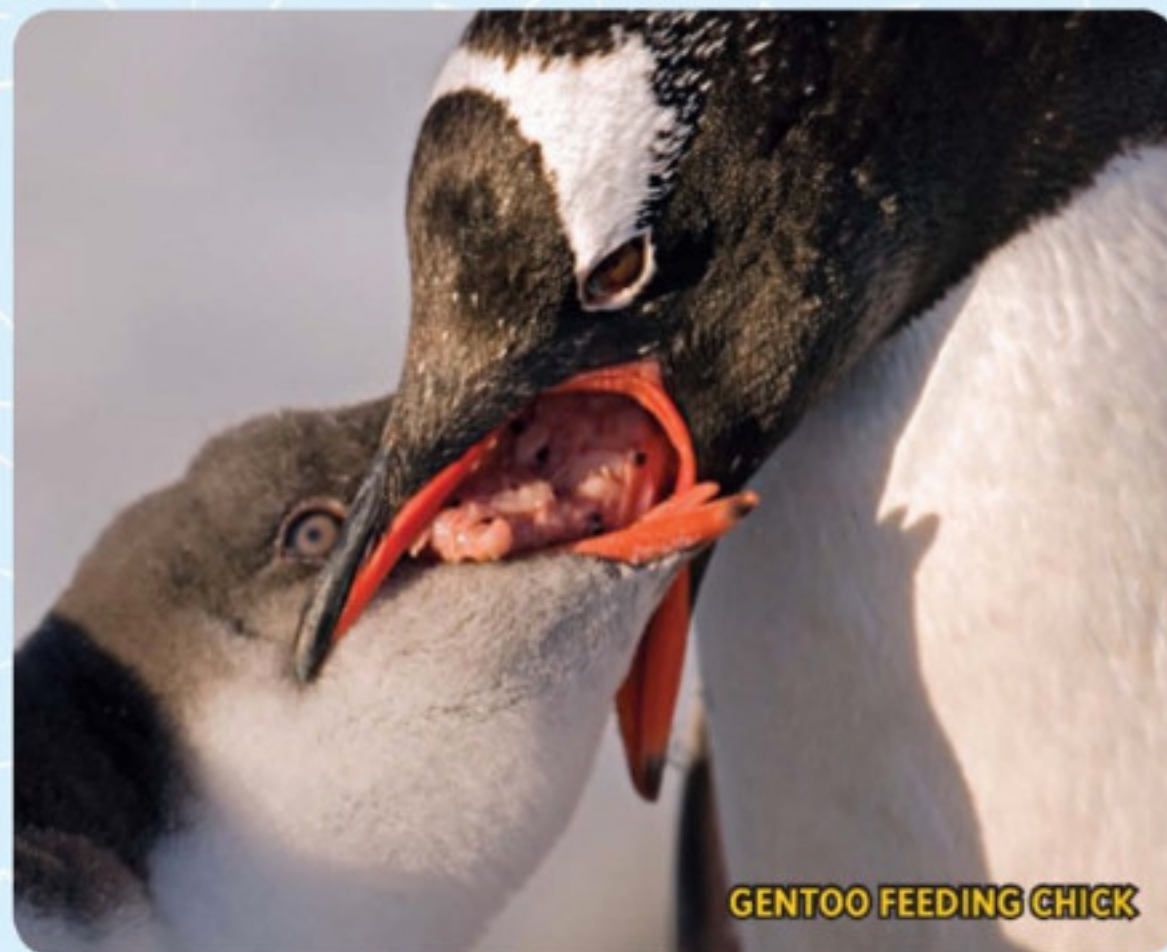
After a couple of weeks, hundreds or even thousands of chicks wait together while the parents go back to the sea to find food. As the chicks wait, they are in constant danger from skuas, eagles, and other animals.

CHINSTRAP CHICKS

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**KING CHICK**



**GENTOO FEEDING CHICK**

Finally, the parents return with food. They have to find their chicks in a huge crowd of baby birds. How do they do it? The baby birds sing special songs to help their parents find them.

In a few months, the whole family returns to the sea.

# The Longest March

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For the emperor penguins, getting to their nesting grounds is hard work. Their home is Antarctica—the coldest place on Earth.

Emperor penguins nest much farther from the ocean than other penguins. They must march for days and nights through snow and wind.

After laying her egg, the female gives it to the male. He will keep it warm in a flap under his belly.

Unlike other penguins, the male emperor cares for the egg by himself while the female goes back to the ocean to find food.



EMPEROR PENGUINS

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The mother is gone for more than four months. The father huddles with the other male penguins to keep himself, and his egg, safe and warm. During this time, the father eats nothing but snow.

When the mother returns in July, the father quickly goes to the ocean to find food. By December, the whole family is ready to go.

EMPEROR PENGUINS

# Penguin Parade

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There are 17 different species, or kinds, of penguins.

## Fairy

HEIGHT  
16"

### SMALLEST

Fairy penguins sing more songs than any other penguins.



## Galapagos

HEIGHT  
18"-21"



## Snares

HEIGHT  
21"-25"



## Rockhopper

HEIGHT  
21"-25"



## Yellow-Eyed

HEIGHT  
23"-30"



## Fiordland

HEIGHT  
24"



## Erect-Crested

HEIGHT  
24"-26"



## African

HEIGHT  
24"-28"



## Magellanic

HEIGHT  
24"-28"

These penguins are the loudest. They sound like donkeys.



**Royal**

HEIGHT  
24"-28"



**Macaroni**

HEIGHT  
21"-26"



**Adelie**

HEIGHT  
22"-26"

**Humboldt**

HEIGHT  
22"-26"

These penguins don't make a nest.  
They carry their eggs wherever they go.

These penguins are the fastest swimmers.

**Chinstrap**

HEIGHT  
27"



**Gentoo**

HEIGHT  
27"-30"

**King**

HEIGHT  
37"

**LARGEST  
Emperor**

HEIGHT  
44"



What do you call a penguin who surfs?

*A hang-ten-penguin.*



# Penguin Play

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**HOPPING:** Rockhoppers can hop five feet high!

**ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN**

Life isn't always easy for penguins. But at least they look like they're having fun.

**SINGING:** Adults sing to their mates, and chicks sing for their parents.



**MACARONI PENGUIN**

**SLEDDING:** Penguins speed down icy hills on their feet and bellies to get somewhere fast.



**KING PENGUIN**

**SURFING:** Penguins surf through the waves. Sometimes they surf right from the water up onto land.



**CHINSTRAP PENGUIN**



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**BARB**

Something sharp and pointy like a hook.

**COAST**

Where land meets water.



**COLONY**

A group of animals who live together.

**EQUATOR**

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**MARINE MAMMALS**

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