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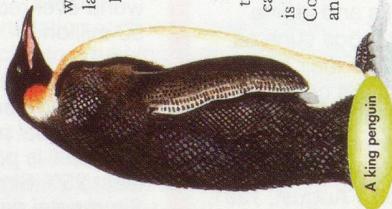
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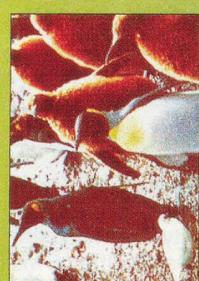
Where does the king penguin protect its eggs?



King penguins do not build nests, but tuck their single egg under their bellies while resting it on their feet, protected by a large fold of skin. Mother and father penguin take turns keeping the egg warm in the cold.

Because the king penguin's main concern seems to be maintaining a constant body temperature, they are limited to places that do not have temperature fluctuations. Their territories can be rocky, icy or snowy, as long as there is water and an abundance of food available. Colonies can be as large as 10,000 penguins, and each bird keeps its distance from the others. In these confined spaces, coming too close earns a nasty jab or flipper slap! The king penguin, second in size only to the huge emperor penguin, is one of the biggest birds, up to 0.914 m (3 feet). They can swim at speeds of 6 mph, and use their wings as flippers to fly through the water, and then hop out onto the rocky shore. Unlike many other penguins, the king penguin runs and doesn't hop while on land.

A king penguin



FACT FILE

Baby chicks are born from their greenish-white eggs nearly naked, but quickly grow a brown woolly fuzz to keep them warm. The adult penguins are often dwarfed by their chicks.

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