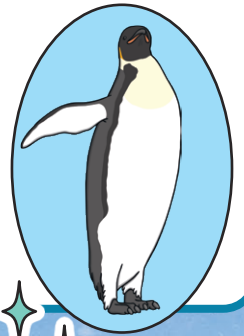


# All About Penguins

Penguins are flightless seabirds and there are 18 different species of them. The largest species of penguin is called the emperor penguin and they can measure up to 120cm. The smallest penguin (known as the blue penguin, little penguin or fairy penguin) only grows to approximately 30cm. A group of penguins on land can be called a colony, a rookery or a huddle while a group of swimming penguins is called a raft.



## Appearance

Adult penguins can be identified by their black bodies and white stomachs. The colouration of their feathers helps them camouflage and protect themselves from predators, such as leopard seals, sharks and orcas. Baby penguins are known as chicks and they are born with grey, white or brown feathers.

To protect them from cold temperatures, penguins' bodies have a thick layer of blubber and their feathers are oily; this helps keep water out and traps warm air against the skin. Additionally, penguins' bodies are adapted to help them dive and swim quickly in the sea. They have webbed feet, stiff flippers and sleek-shaped bodies.



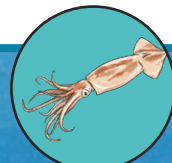
## Habitat

The majority of penguins live in the southern hemisphere and they generally live on islands or remote regions near the coast. While many penguins live in cold regions, such as Antarctica, some species are found in warmer climates. For example, the Galápagos penguin lives off the coast of Ecuador.



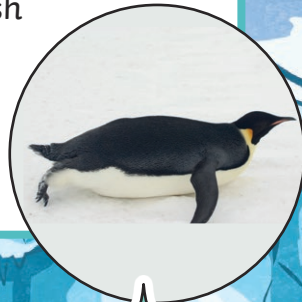
## Diet

Penguins generally eat small sea creatures, such as fish, squid and krill. Amazingly, they can spend up to 75 per cent of their lives in the water and they spend a lot of their time hunting for prey.



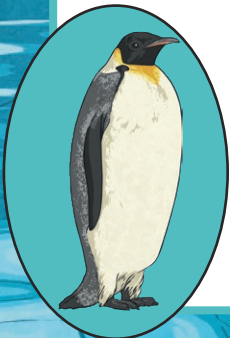
## Behaviour

As penguins have short legs, they tend to waddle on land and they use different techniques to help them travel faster. Penguins that live in polar climates move across the ice or snow quickly by 'tobogganing'. This is when penguins slide across the ice on their stomach and push with their feet. They use their flippers to help them move and balance.



Penguins often keep warm by huddling together and they breed in large groups called nesting colonies. Depending on the species, female penguins lay between one and three eggs. Male and female penguins take it in turns to look after the eggs, apart from emperor penguins where the eggs are looked after exclusively by the males. While one penguin looks after the egg, the other travels to the sea and goes hunting.

Penguins look after the eggs by balancing them on their feet and covering them with a feathered pouch to keep them warm.



## Threats

Unfortunately, there are a number of threats that penguins face in the wild. Some species are at risk due to overfishing. Additionally, climate change is thought by many people to be the biggest threat to the penguin population in Antarctica and there are fears that the population will reduce rapidly in the future. As ice melts in the polar regions due to rising temperatures, penguins may be forced to search for new habitats.



## Glossary

**blubber:** The fat of some sea creatures.  
**krill:** Small shellfish.

# Questions

1. Which of the following do penguins eat? Tick **three**.

- fish
- leopard seals
- squid
- krill

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.

**Appearance**

While many penguins live in cold regions, such as Antarctica, some species are found in warmer climates.

**Habitat**

As ice melts in the polar regions due to rising temperatures, penguins may be forced to search for new habitats.

**Behaviour**

Baby penguins are known as chicks and they are born with grey, white or brown feathers.

**Threats**

They use their flippers to help them move and balance.

3. What is the largest species of penguin?

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4. Fill in the missing word.

Adult penguins can be \_\_\_\_\_ by their black bodies and white stomachs.

5. Look at the sub-heading **Habitat**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a piece of land surrounded by water'.

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6. Why do you think the author chose to organise the text with sub-headings?

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7. Summarise what you have learnt about the behaviour of penguins in 30 words or fewer.

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8. Why do you think overfishing is a threat for penguins?

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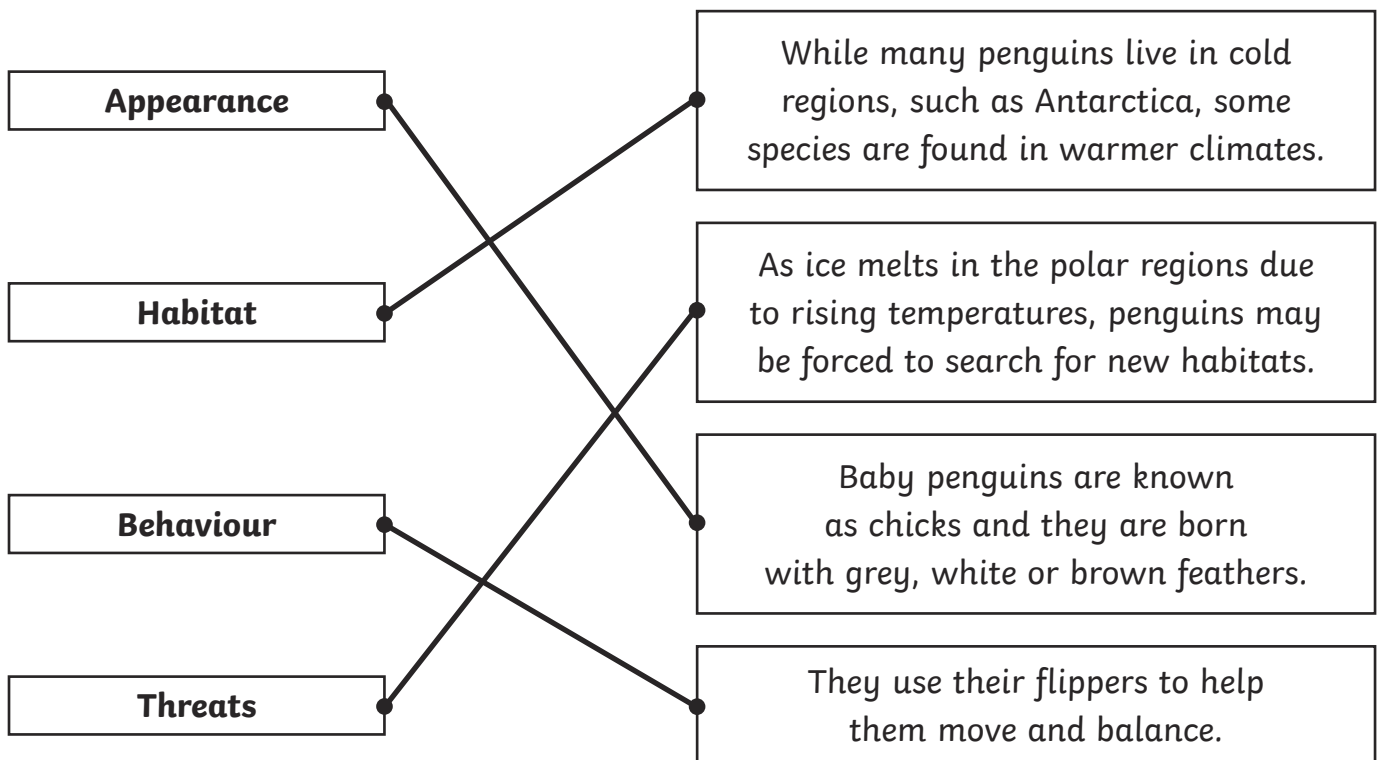
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# Answers

1. Which of the following do penguins eat? Tick **three**.

- fish**
- leopard seals
- squid**
- krill**

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.



3. What is the largest species of penguin?

**The largest species of penguin is the emperor penguin.**

4. Fill in the missing word.

Adult penguins can be **identified** by their black bodies and white stomachs.

5. Look at the sub-heading **Habitat**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a piece of land surrounded by water'.

**islands**

6. Why do you think the author chose to organise the text with sub-headings?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose to organise the text in sub-headings so that the reader can locate information quickly about different subjects, such as the penguins' diet or appearance.**

7. Summarise what you have learnt about the behaviour of penguins in 30 words or fewer.

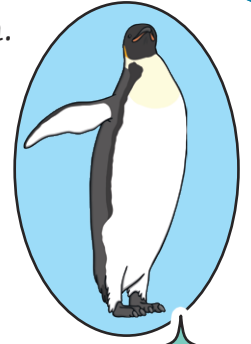
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Penguins waddle on land so they slide across ice on their stomach to move quickly. This is called 'tobogganing'. They like to keep warm by huddling together.**

8. Why do you think overfishing is a threat for penguins?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think overfishing is a threat for penguins because there may not be enough food for them and they will compete against each other for fish.**

# All About Penguins

Penguins are flightless seabirds and there are 18 different species of them. The largest species of penguin – the emperor penguin – can measure to 120cm while the smallest penguin (known as the blue penguin, little penguin or fairy penguin) only grows to approximately 30cm. A group of penguins on land can be called a colony, a rookery or a huddle while group of swimming penguins is called a raft.



## Appearance

Adult penguins can be identified by their black bodies and white stomachs. The colouration of their feathers helps them camouflage with their surroundings and protect themselves from predators, such as leopard seals, sharks and orcas. Some species, such as crested penguins, have yellow feathers that stick out from the side of their heads. Baby penguins, which are known as chicks, have different colourings to adult penguins. Generally, they are born with grey, white or brown feathers.

To protect them from cold temperatures, penguins' bodies have a thick layer of blubber (fat) and their feathers are oily; this helps keep water out and traps warm air against the skin. Additionally, penguins'

bodies are adapted to help them dive and swim quickly in the sea.

They have webbed feet, stiff flippers and sleek-shaped bodies.



## Habitat

The majority of penguins live in the southern hemisphere and they generally live on islands or remote regions near the coast. While many penguins live in cold regions, such as Antarctica, some species are located in warmer climates; for example, the Galápagos penguin lives off the coast of Ecuador.



## Diet

Penguins generally eat small sea creatures, such as fish, squid and krill (a type of small shellfish). Amazingly, they can spend up to 75 per cent of their lives in the water and they spend a lot of their time there hunting for prey. Chicks cannot digest food like adult penguins; therefore, the parent penguin swallows the food, brings it back up and allows the chick to feed from its bill.



## Behaviour

As penguins have short legs, they tend to waddle on land; therefore, penguins use different techniques to help them travel faster. Penguins that live in polar climates move across the ice or snow quickly with an approach known as 'tobogganing'. This is when penguins slide across the ice on their stomach and push with their feet. They use their flippers to help them move and balance.



Penguins often keep warm by huddling together and they breed in large groups called nesting colonies. Depending on the species, female penguins lay between one and three eggs. Male and female penguins take it in turns to look after the eggs, apart from emperor penguins where the eggs are looked after exclusively by the males. While one penguin looks after the egg, the other travels to the sea and goes hunting. Penguins look after the eggs by balancing them on their feet and covering them with a feathered pouch to keep them warm. As the chicks start to grow older, the adult penguins leave them together in groups called crèches while they hunt in the sea. When the chicks are old enough to swim, they head to the water themselves to hunt for fish.



## Threats

Unfortunately, there are a number of threats that penguins face in the wild. Some species are at risk due to overfishing; this then leads to penguins competing for food. Climate change is considered by many people to be the biggest threat to the penguin population in Antarctica and there are fears that the population will reduce rapidly in the future.

As ice melts in the polar regions due to rising temperatures, penguins may be forced to search for new habitats.



# Questions

1. Which one of these is **not** the name of the smallest species of penguin? Tick one.

- blue penguin
- elf penguin
- fairy penguin
- little penguin

2. Draw four lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.

**Appearance**

Penguins generally eat small sea creatures, such as fish, squid and krill.

**Diet**

As penguins have short legs, they tend to waddle on land.

**Behaviour**

Climate change is considered by many people to be the biggest threat to the penguin population in Antarctica.

**Threats**

Some species, such as crested penguins, have yellow feathers that stick out from the side of their heads.

3. Name **two** predators of penguins.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Fill in the missing words.

The majority of penguins live in the southern \_\_\_\_\_ and they generally live on islands or \_\_\_\_\_ regions near the coast.

5. Look at the sub-heading **Threats**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'decrease'.

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6. Why do you think the technique where penguins move quickly across the ice is called 'tobogganing'?

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7. Compare how emperor penguins are different from other penguins.

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8. Summarise what penguins look like in 25 words or fewer.

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9. Look at the subheading **Threats**. How do you think the author feels about the threats that penguins face and why?

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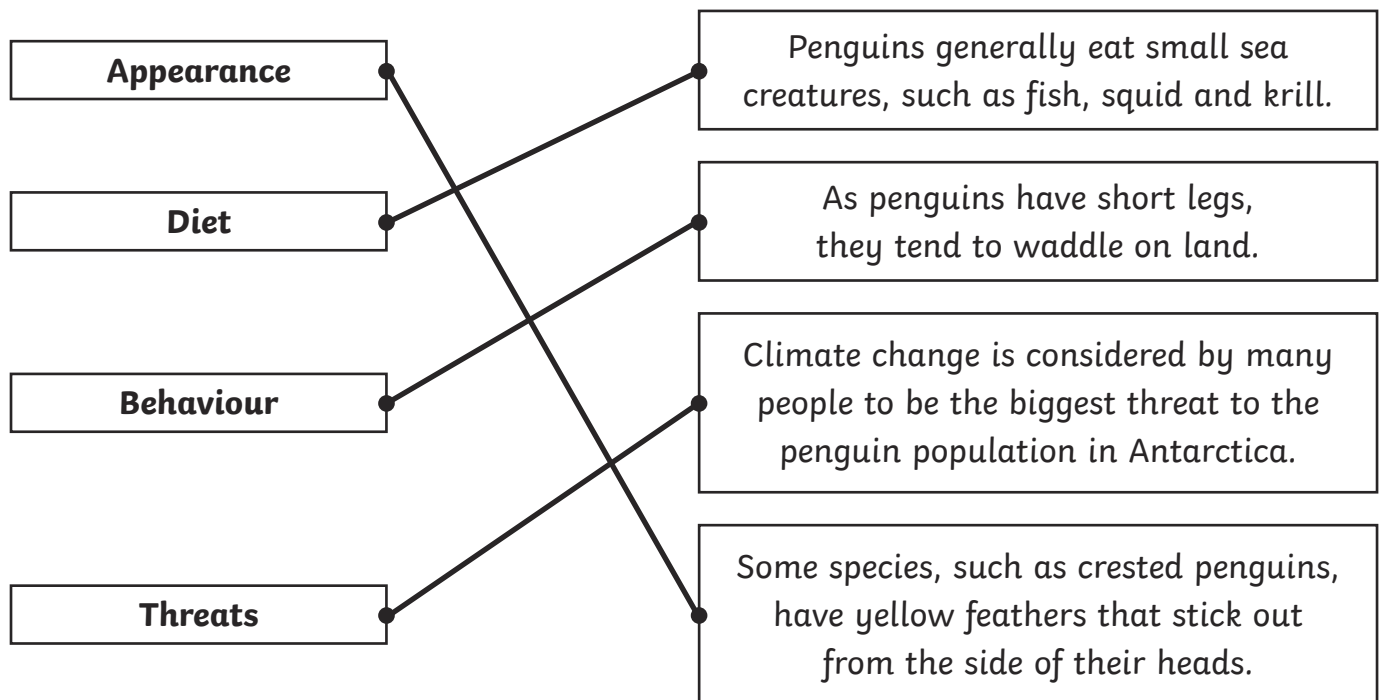
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# Answers

1. Which one of these is **not** the name of the smallest species of penguin? Tick one.

- blue penguin
- elf penguin**
- fairy penguin
- little penguin

2. Draw four lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.



3. Name **two** predators of penguins.

**Accept any two of the following: leopard seals; sharks; orcas.**

4. Fill in the missing words.

The majority of penguins live in the southern **hemisphere** and they generally live on islands or **remote** regions near the coast.

5. Look at the sub-heading **Threats**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'decrease'.

**reduce**

6. Why do you think the technique where penguins move quickly across the ice is called 'tobogganing'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the technique where penguins move quickly across the ice is called 'tobogganing' because sledges or toboggans slide down ice and snow at speed.**

7. Compare how emperor penguins are different from other penguins.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Emperor penguins are different from other penguins because they are the largest species of penguins and also it is the males who exclusively look after the eggs.**

8. Summarise what penguins look like in 25 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Adult penguins have black and white bodies while the chicks have grey, white or brown feathers. They have webbed feet and stiff flippers.**

9. Look at the subheading **Threats**. How do you think the author feels about the threats that penguins face and why?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author feels sad and is worried about the threats that penguins face because they use the word 'unfortunately'.**

# All About Penguins

Penguins are flightless seabirds and there are 18 different species of them. The gentoo penguin, which is the fastest-swimming penguin, is estimated to swim up to 36km per hour. The largest species of penguin – the emperor penguin – can measure up to 120cm while the smallest penguin (known as the blue penguin, little penguin or fairy penguin) only grows to approximately 30cm. A group of penguins on land can be called a colony, a rookery or a huddle while a group of swimming penguins is called a raft.

## Appearance

Adult penguins can be identified by their black bodies and white stomachs. The colouration of their feathers helps them camouflage with their surroundings and protect themselves from predators, such as leopard seals, sharks and orcas. Some species, such as crested penguins, have yellow feathers that stick out from the side of their heads. Baby penguins, which are known as chicks, have different colourings to adult penguins. Generally, they are born with grey, white or brown plumage, which changes to the typical adult feathers when they are approximately one.

To protect them from cold temperatures, penguins' bodies have a thick layer of blubber (fat) and their feathers are oily; this helps insulate them by keeping water out and trapping warm air against the skin.

Additionally, penguins' bodies are adapted to help them dive and swim quickly in the sea; they have webbed feet, stiff flippers and sleek-shaped bodies.



## Habitat

The majority of penguins live in the southern hemisphere and they generally live on islands or remote regions near the coast. While many penguins live in cold regions, such as Antarctica, some species are located in warmer climates; for example, the Galápagos penguin lives off the coast of Ecuador.



## Diet

Penguins generally eat small sea creatures, such as fish, squid and krill (a type of crustacean). Amazingly, they can spend up to 75 per cent of their lives in the water and they spend a lot of their time there hunting for prey. Additionally, penguins who live in colder climates use their sharp bills to scrape krill off the underside of the ice. Chicks cannot digest food like adult penguins; therefore, the parent penguin swallows the food, regurgitates it and allows the chick to feed from its bill.



## Behaviour

As penguins have short legs, they tend to waddle on land; therefore, penguins use different techniques to help them travel faster. Penguins that live in polar climates move across the ice or snow quickly with an approach known as 'tobogganing'. This is when penguins slide across the ice on their stomach and push with their feet.

They use their flippers to help them move and balance.



Penguins often keep warm by huddling together and they breed in large groups called nesting colonies. Depending on the species, female penguins lay between one and three eggs. Male and female penguins take it in turns to look after the eggs, apart from emperor penguins where the eggs are looked after exclusively by the males. While one penguin looks after the egg, the other travels to the sea and goes hunting. Penguins look after the eggs by balancing them on their feet and covering them with a feathered pouch to keep them warm. The incubation period lasts approximately 2 months before a chick hatches from an egg. As the chicks start to grow older, the adult penguins leave them together in groups called crèches while they hunt in the sea. When the chicks are old enough to swim, they head to the water themselves to hunt for fish.



## Threats

Unfortunately, there are a number of threats that penguins face in the wild. Some species are at risk due to overfishing. Industrial fishing has significantly reduced fish supplies which then leads to penguins competing for food. Climate change is considered by many people to be the biggest threat to the penguin population in Antarctica and there are fears that the population will reduce rapidly in the future.

As ice melts in the polar regions due to rising temperatures, penguins may be forced to search for new habitats.



# Questions

1. Which one of these words does **not** describe a group of penguins on land? Tick one.

- colony
- rookery
- raft
- huddle

2. Underline one word in the quotation below that means the same as 'suited' or 'adjusted to'.

*Additionally, penguins' bodies are adapted to help them dive and swim quickly in the sea; they have webbed feet, stiff flippers and sleek-shaped bodies.*

3. Name **two** types of food that penguins eat.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Fill in the missing words.

The \_\_\_\_\_ period lasts \_\_\_\_\_ 2 months before a chick hatches from an egg.

5. Look at the sub-heading **Appearance**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'feathers'.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Compare how penguins are different from some other birds.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why do you think one penguin always stays behind to look after the egg?

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8. **As penguins have short legs, they tend to waddle on land...**

What does the word 'waddle' tell us about how penguins move?

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9. Summarise what you have learnt about the threats to penguins in 30 words or fewer.

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10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
A penguin hunts leopard seals.		
Galápagos penguins live off the coast of Greece.		
Penguins' feathers help them camouflage with their surroundings.		
Penguins have a thick layer of blubber.		
Penguins balance the egg on their stomachs.		

# Answers

1. Which one of these words does **not** describe a group of penguins on land? Tick one.

- colony
- rookery
- raft**
- huddle

2. Underline one word in the quotation below that means the same as 'suited' or 'adjusted to'.

*Additionally, penguins' bodies are **adapted** to help them dive and swim quickly in the sea; they have webbed feet, stiff flippers and sleek-shaped bodies.*

**Award 1 mark for:**

- **adapted**

3. Name **two** types of food that penguins eat.

**Accept any two of the following: fish; squid; krill.**

4. Fill in the missing words.

The **incubation** period lasts **approximately** 2 months before a chick hatches from an egg.

5. Look at the sub-heading **Appearance**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'feathers'.

**plumage**

6. Compare how penguins are different from some other birds.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Penguins are different from some other birds because they cannot fly.**

7. Why do you think one penguin always stays behind to look after the egg?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think one penguin always stays behind to look after the egg so that it is safe and not taken by predators.**

8. **As penguins have short legs, they tend to waddle on land...**

What does the word 'waddle' tell us about how penguins move?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the word 'waddle' tells us that penguins take short steps and they move from side to side as they walk.**

## 9. Summarise what you have learnt about the threats to penguins in 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Overfishing has reduced the food that penguins eat. Climate change is thought to be a big threat because penguins' habitats are at risk due to rising temperatures and melting ice.**

## 10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
A penguin hunts leopard seals.		✓
Galápagos penguins live off the coast of Greece.		✓
Penguins' feathers help them camouflage with their surroundings.	✓	
Penguins have a thick layer of blubber.	✓	
Penguins balance the egg on their stomachs.		✓

**Award 2 marks for all five correct.**

**Award 1 mark for four correct.**