

Penguin  Readers



BBC



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# DYNASTIES

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*Penguins*

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# Life in the Antarctic

Emperor penguins live in the Antarctic – the coldest place on Earth. For two months of the year, there is no sun, and sometimes the **temperature** can go below **minus 40 degrees Celsius**. The penguins **mate** in a place on the ice about 80 kilometres from the sea, and they have their chicks there, too. This place is called the breeding grounds.

Emperor penguins are the largest, tallest and heaviest of all the penguins in the world. They are the fifth-heaviest bird in the world. They can **stand** 115 centimetres tall and weigh 46 kilograms. They have **wings** (penguins' wings are flippers), but they cannot fly. This is true for all penguins.

Emperor penguins have black heads, backs, tails and flippers. Their breasts and necks are white and yellow.







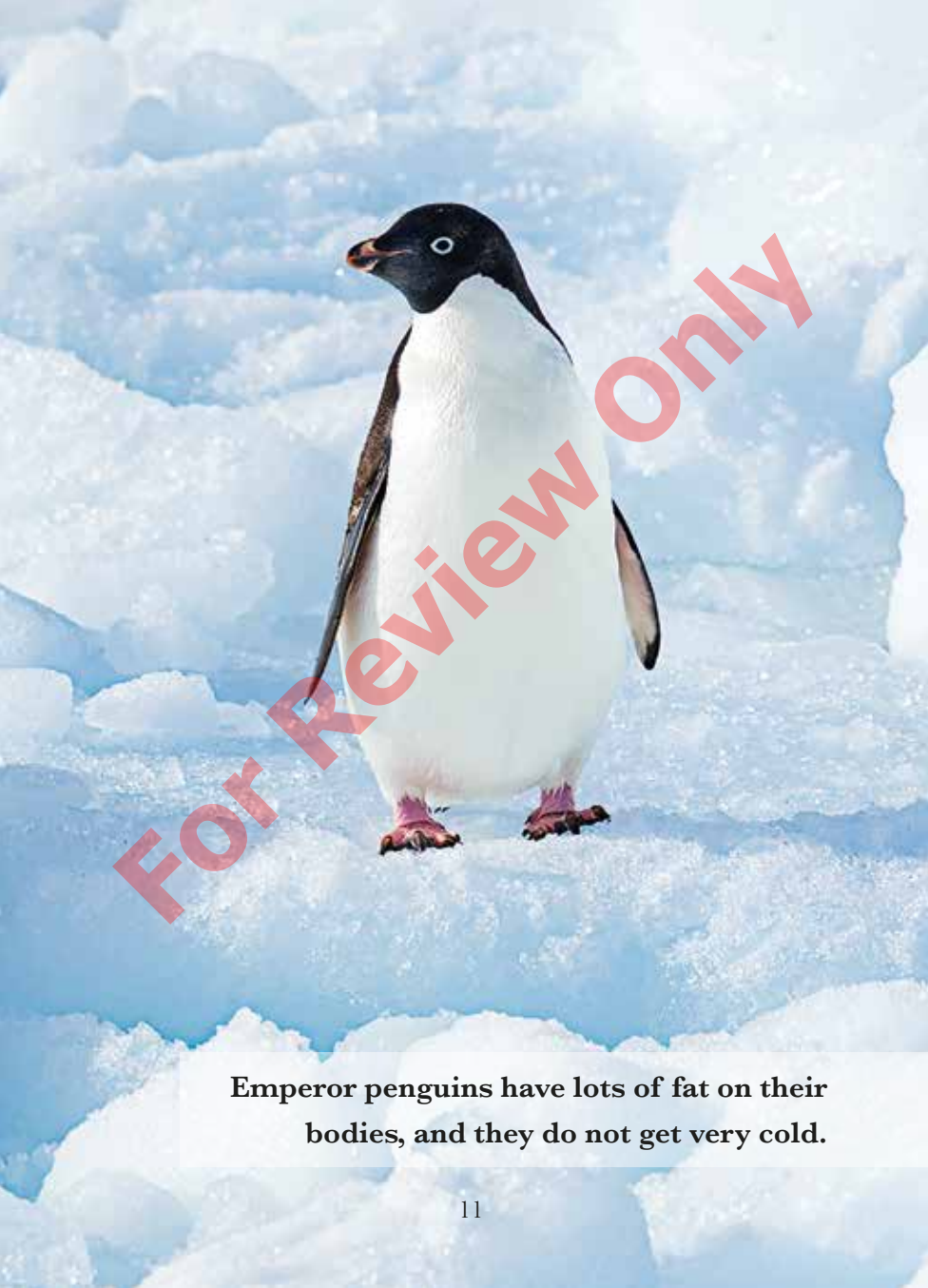
**A mother emperor penguin  
and her chick**

Emperor penguins mate and have their chicks in the Antarctic in the dark winter months. No other penguins have their chicks in winter. Emperor penguins have them then because they are so big and heavy. They have lots of **fat** on their bodies, and they do not get very cold. They are able to stand together in very large **colonies** in the breeding grounds and keep warm with their bodies next to the other penguins.

Other birds leave the Antarctic before winter, and that is good for the emperor penguins. They can eat all the fish and other food in the sea, and they get very fat. This helps them to keep warm and well, and to **survive**. Most emperor penguins will not walk on **land** in their **life**. They live only on the ice or in the sea.







For Review Only

Emperor penguins have lots of fat on their bodies, and they do not get very cold.

There are not many **predators** in the Antarctic in the winter, but there are some. Large orcas and seals **hunt** the penguins in the sea, and petrels and skuas – very large birds – sometimes try to kill and eat the penguin chicks.

