

# A Look at Penguin Life

It's hard not to like penguins. They always look dressed up because of their black and white feathers, and it is fun to watch them waddle, swim, and slide. But even though penguins look cute, they have to be very strong to survive in bitter cold Antarctica where many of them live.



On November 12, a new film, *Penguins of the Antarctic*, will be shown on the public television series NATURE. (Check your local TV listings for the exact time and channel.) The program takes viewers atop icebergs and underwater as it explores the lives of four types of penguins.

*Penguins of the Antarctic* takes viewers along as penguins *migrate*, or travel, from place to place. You will follow one species, Chinstrap penguins, as they travel their own “superhighway” between their island-top home and the sea. Two million penguins live on that island, which is also home to an active volcano. As they travel, Chinstraps must avoid the 12-foot long leopard seal, which can eat six penguins in an hour.

## NEWS WORD BOX

volcano	waddle
island	survive
active	temperature
Chinstrap	Emperor

The TV program also shows you how a species known as Emperor penguins lives. Did you know that male Emperor penguins stand in the snow for *two months* as they wait for a baby to hatch from its egg? Each penguin keeps an egg warm on its feet in temperatures that can drop to 50 degrees below zero -- which is *really* cold, even for penguins. In the spring, the mother penguins return with food for the babies (chicks) and the male penguins finally get to eat!

## **MORE FACTS ABOUT PENGUINS**

- Most scientists say there are 17 species of penguins. (Some say there are 19.)
- Some penguins can hold their breath for 20 minutes and dive a mile underwater.
- Scientists are studying penguins. They want to learn how warmer temperatures in Antarctica are affecting the remarkable birds.

## THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Imagine you lived in a place as cold as Antarctica. How would your life be different? What things could you do and not do?