

Adaptations

Due to the extreme conditions in Antarctica, Emperor penguins have a number of adaptations to enable them to survive. Under their skin, they have a layer of blubber which keeps them warm in the extreme cold. Furthermore, four layers of waterproof feathers enables them to remain dry and protects them from icy winds. To withstand the harsh winds and blizzards, the penguins huddle together in groups. Sleek bodies, a tail for steering and wings that act as flippers mean that Emperor penguins are excellent at hunting for fish in the ocean. As a result of these adaptations, they are fantastic swimmers and divers. They can reach depths of 500m and stay underwater for up to 22 minutes.

Interesting Fact

Did you know that Emperor penguins only lay a single egg?