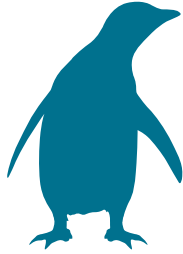




ADÉLIE PENGUIN

Where I live

HOME



Adélie penguins live in Antarctica, a vast, frozen continent surrounded by ocean. They are also found on many small, surrounding islands.

Arctic



Antarctica

DESCRIPTION



Adélie penguins are one of the most common penguins in Antarctica. They have waterproof feathers and a thick layer of fat to keep them warm. They spend the winter off the coast on sea ice and return to land in the summer to breed in large groups called colonies. These groups can include thousands of penguins.

They make their nests in areas free of snow and ice and line them with stones to protect their eggs. Both parents take turns to keep the eggs warm and help to look after their chicks.

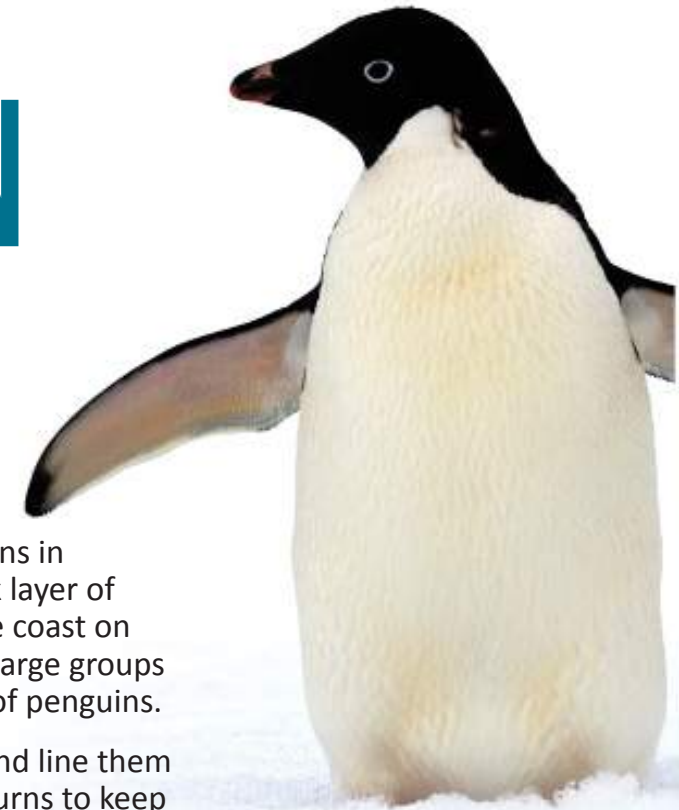
The penguins' main predator is the leopard seal, a speedy and deadly hunter. Birds like skuas also often raid the nests for eggs and chicks.



Leopard seal



Skua



FUN FACT

Adélie penguins can be cheeky and steal stones from their neighbours' nests to use for their own construction.



FOOD

Their favourite food is krill (tiny shrimps). Small fish and squid are often on the menu too. Adélie penguins can dive up to 175 metres to catch their food – that's more than three times the length of an Olympic swimming pool!



Adélie penguins diving off an iceberg



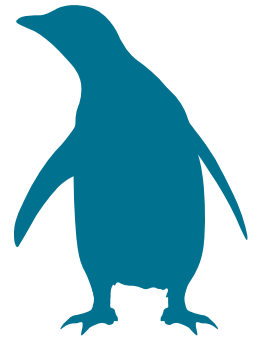
Krill



Herring

THREAT

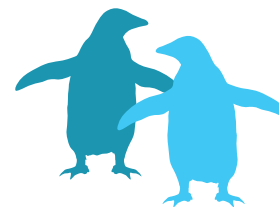
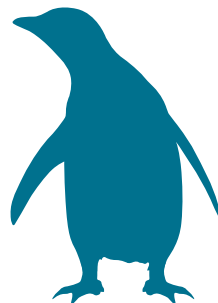
Climate change is causing the average temperature to rise around the world. As a result, sea ice in parts of Antarctica is melting, affecting the penguins' habitat. It also affects their main source of food, krill, which breed and feed under sea ice.



A colony of Adélie penguins

DID YOU KNOW?

Adélie penguins often return to the colony where they were born in order to breed.

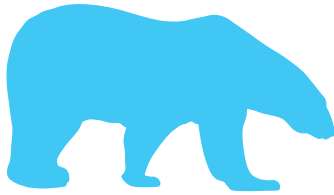


DID YOU KNOW?

When they are three weeks old, the chicks can be left on their own and they gather together to stay warm and safe while their parents go hunting for food.



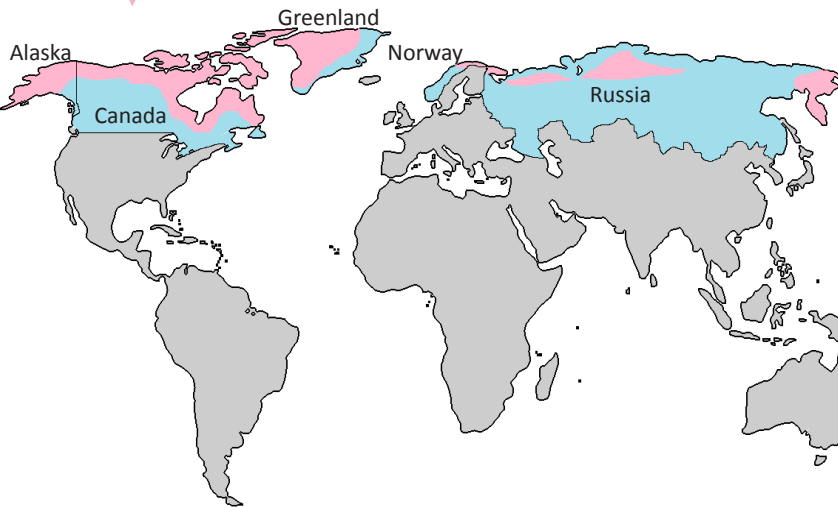
POLAR BEAR



HOME

Where
I live

Polar bears live in the Arctic, an ocean covered with thick ice and bordered by treeless, frozen lands. They can be found in five countries: Canada, the United States (Alaska), Denmark (Greenland), Russia and Norway (Svalbard islands).



DESCRIPTION

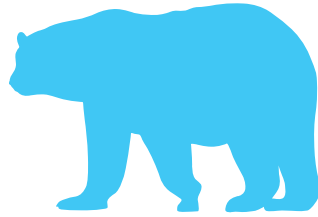
Polar bears are the largest land carnivores (or meat eaters) on the planet. They spend lots of time in the water or on sea ice, looking for food. They have a thick layer of fat and an oily fur coat to protect them from freezing weather and icy water. They can swim for hours, using their big front paws to paddle in the water and their back feet to steer.



Females dig a den in the snow to give birth, usually to two cubs. The cubs stay close to their mother for about two and a half years to learn how to survive in this harsh environment. Adult males often live alone throughout the year.

FOOD

Their favourite food is ringed and bearded seals. Polar bears can wait for hours by a hole in the ice for a plump seal to surface to breathe. Fish, seabirds, dead walrus and belugas are also on the menu, if available.



Bearded seal



Ringed seal

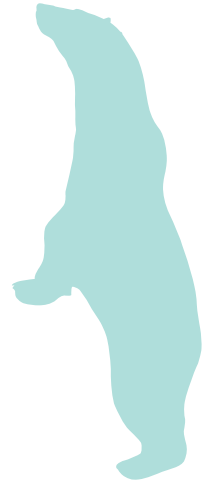


Beluga whale

THREATS

Climate change is causing the average temperature to rise around the world. As a result, sea ice in the Arctic is melting earlier in the spring and forming later each year. Polar bears depend on floating sea ice to hunt seals. Their changing habitat is forcing them to come into villages and towns to find food – not so good for people or bears!

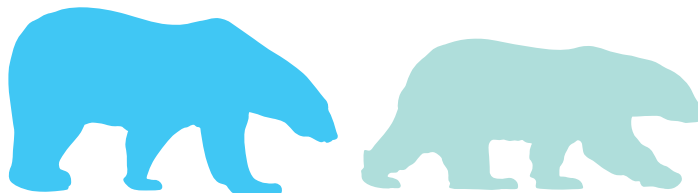
Today it is estimated that there are only around 25,000 polar bears left in the wild!



A polar bear mother and cubs playing around an iceberg in Svalbard.

DID YOU KNOW?

Polar bears are speedy when they need to be, and can run at 40 kilometers per hour for short distances.



Polar bears don't need to drink water. They get most of the liquid they need from the animals they eat.