



Name _____

Emperor Penguins

In honor of Father's Day let's take a look at Emperor penguins. You'll see why below. Answer the questions that follow.

There are few examples in nature of a father more dedicated than the Emperor penguin. After the female lays the egg, her body is depleted of all nutritional reserves. This means her body can no longer feed itself. She must return to feed in the ocean for two whole months. This leaves the responsibility of keeping the egg warm through the freezing Antarctic winter to the father.

The father will spend those two months holding the egg carefully between the tops of his feet and his brooding pouch. Brooding pouch means his big belly. The father goes without food and endures the harsh winter in Antarctica. The average temperature is around -60°C and freezing winds can reach 120 mph! Brrrr! If he moves too suddenly or the egg becomes exposed to the freezing temperatures, the chick will not make it. But with his dedication and balance he ensures the survival of a new generation. What a great dad!

Quick Facts about Emperor penguins:

- Emperor penguins have bright splashes of yellow and orange on their breast region and their ears.
- Emperor penguins are the largest of all the different kinds of penguins. On average they measure 115cm tall which is about the height of the average six year old!
- Emperor penguins spend their entire lives in Antarctica - the Earth's southernmost continent.
- Emperor Penguins form extremely large colonies that can make it hard to keep track of each other. They use a variety of unique vocal sounds in order to contact each other.
- The average life span for an Emperor Penguin is about 20 years.

Questions

1. Who takes care of the eggs after the mother lays them? _____
2. Where does the father penguin hold the egg? _____
3. Where does the mother go after she lays the egg? _____
4. Where do Emperor penguins live their whole life? _____
5. What is the average life span for an Emperor penguin? _____
6. What is the average temperature in Antarctica? _____