

## Penguin Profile



### Penguin Family Tree

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Subphylum: Vertebrata  
Class: Aves  
Order: Sphenisciformes  
Family: Spheniscidae  
Subfamily: Spheniscinae (modern penguins)  
Genus:  
Species:

GOOD DAY! I'm Sofia the penguin. Did you know penguins are birds with wings but can't fly! Our wings might not fly but are great in the water- I use my wings as flippers as I swim through the Antarctic waters. I'm a really fast swimmer and can stay underwater with my eyes open for up to 18 minutes! My wings help me dive deep into the ocean where I look tasty anchovies, pilchards, cuttlefish, squid, and krill. I use my bill to trap my food. While I'm diving deep into the ocean, I'm on the look out for predators like killer whales and sharks. My white feathers on my belly help camouflage me when I'm swimming because my predators can't tell the difference between my white feathers and the reflective surface of the water. My ears also help me detect the movement and sound of predators and prey.

I walk upright in a waddle because my legs are short but I use my tail and wings help keep me balanced. Sometimes I toboggan down an icy patch on my stomach using my wings and feet to propel me. I have four pointy toes on each foot- that's 8 toes in all. I live in cold climates and so I have a thick layer of fat under my skin to keep me warm.

Now my plumage is black and white but as baby chick, I was a brown grey color. My mom laid 2 eggs in a nest of pebbles and vegetation in a small cave. Then my dad sat on the eggs keeping them warm so my sister and I could grow inside the eggs. They sometimes took turns sitting on the eggs. I hatched first and then my sister hatched 2 days later. Penguins like to be in the company of other penguins- we like to hang around in groups, swimming, playing and even hunting together. And we can live for 20 years!