

# 10 things you should know about...

## Gentoo Penguins

Scientific name: Genus species: "Pygoscelis papua"



Parent feeding chick.

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- 1** Gentoo penguins live in subantarctic and antarctic waters.
- 2** Unlike some penguins, most gentoo penguins stay in the same area year round.
- 3** If you arranged penguins by size, the emperor penguin is the largest (4 ft tall). The king penguin is the second largest (3 ft tall). At 2 to 2.5 feet (61 to 76 cm) tall, gentoos are the third largest penguin species. That's about three to four pencils long (and maybe a pink eraser thrown in).
- 4** A gentoo weighs 12 to 14 pounds (5.5 to 6.4 kg).
- 5** Its flipper might be 9 to 10 inches (23.4-25.6 cm) long. Its bill, which is bright orange, is 2.1 to 2.5 inches (5.5 to 6.28 cm).
- 6** Gentoo penguins eat krill, fish, squid, and amphipods.
- 7** Like all penguins, gentoos nest on the ground. Like some penguins, they build a nest made of rocks or pebbles. The pebbles are sometimes scarce, so they will sneak up to other nests and steal pebbles to fill in their own.
- 8** Both parents incubate the eggs and care for the chicks. A gentoo egg weighs 4.2 to 4.6 ounces (120 to 130 g). That's about twice the weight of an extra-large chicken egg. The egg is about 2.5 to 2.8 inches (6.43 to 7.1 cm) long and inches 2 to 2.24 inches (5.65 to 5.4 cm) around.
- 9** Eggs and chicks are eaten by skuas, kelp gulls, sheath bills, and giant petrels. The main predator of adults is probably the leopard seal.
- 10** These speedy penguins swim 22 mph. While in search of food, a gentoo penguin can dive up to 655 ft (200 m) and can stay under water for up to 7 minutes.



Parent and chicks on nest.

COURTESY OF SUE TRIVELPIECE/AERD

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