

Extreme Animals!

The seas around Antarctica are rich in marine (sea-living) animals, ranging from microscopic plankton to the largest animal ever, the Blue Whale. The extremely cold water is full of foods such as krill, a microscopic shrimp-like creature.

All the animals that live in and around Antarctica have ways of helping them survive the extreme weather conditions:



Some, like the whales, seals and birds, have a layer of fat to insulate and protect them from the cold.



Penguins and seals have a compact body shape and thick skin to help keep in their body heat.



Birds have both waterproof feathers and downy feathers to keep them warm.



Many of the fish and insects have special chemicals in their blood that keep them from freezing.



Some animals leave Antarctica between June and August, its coldest months. For example, Humpback whales eat huge amounts of krill before migrating to warmer waters, where there is little krill, to give birth to their calves.

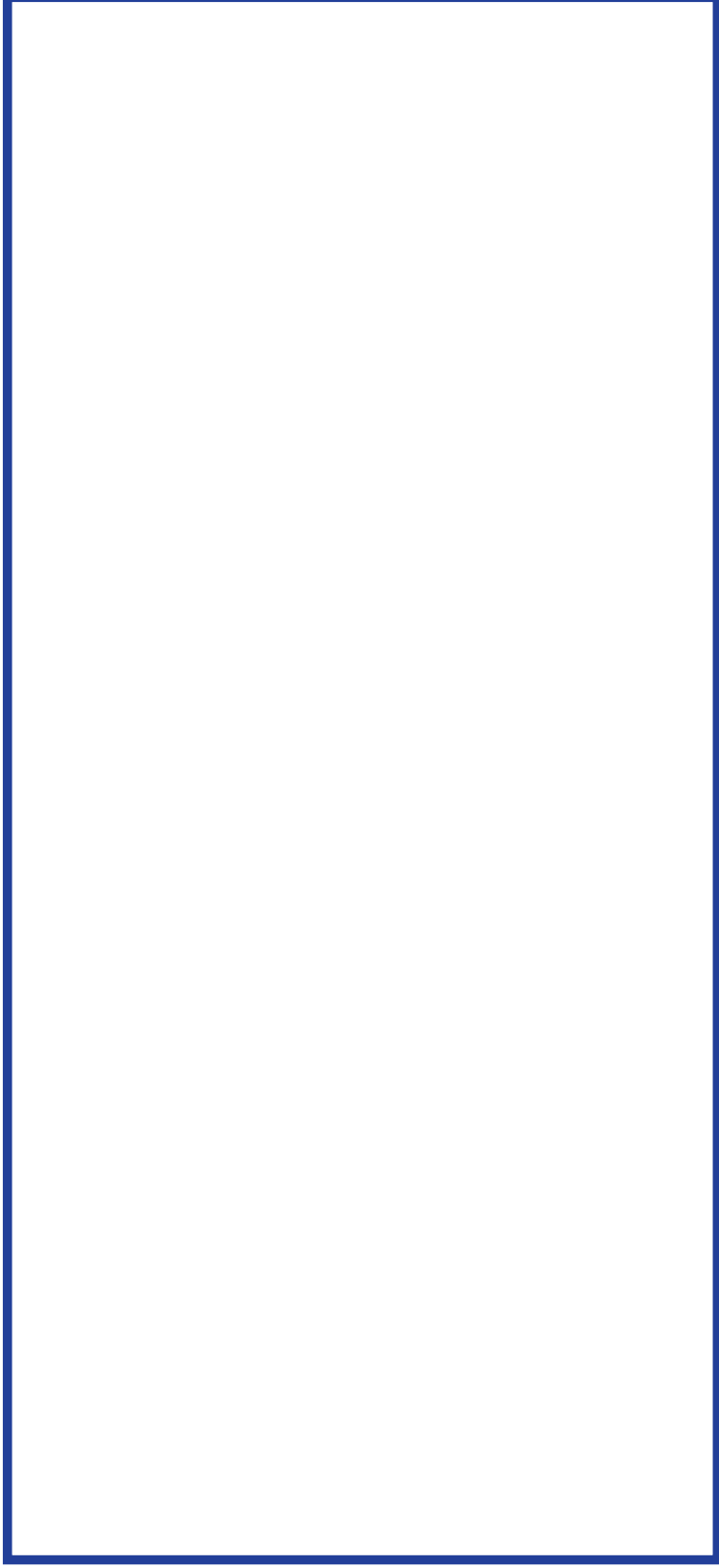


Some animals remain in Antarctica all the time, for example, the Emperor penguins.

You could use some of these facts to help create your extreme animal...

Extreme Animals!

Can you design your own extreme animal that could survive in Antarctica? Use the animal facts for help if you're stuck for ideas.



What is your extreme animal called?

What does your extreme animal eat?



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