

Penguin Origami



Living in the southern hemisphere, the majority within the Antarctic circle, these flightless birds are highly adapted for cold environments.

In the water, penguins are swift and graceful swimmers who can easily catch fish and krill. On land it's very different. They waddle and sway in an ungainly manner, but they also like to hop, bounce and toboggan on their bellies. Antarctic penguins range in size from around 50-120cm tall. Fossil penguins show that some ancient penguins were once as tall as a small adult.

It's estimated that there are about 20 million penguins in Antarctica now. When it's really cold they huddle together to keep warm. The most extreme huddle ever recorded was 19 Emperor penguins within a square metre!

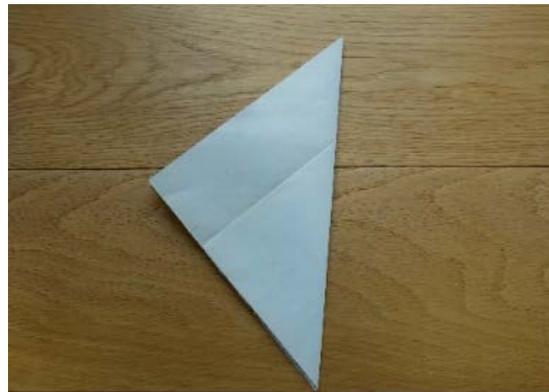
Find out more: www.bas.ac.uk/about/antarctica/wildlife/penguins/

You will need: colouring pens and some paper. You could use wrapping paper, magazines, newspaper, old maps or just some plain paper.

Don't go for really glossy paper as it can be too slippery and hard to fold properly.



1. Cut out a square of paper. Take your sheet and name the patterned side A and the plain side B.



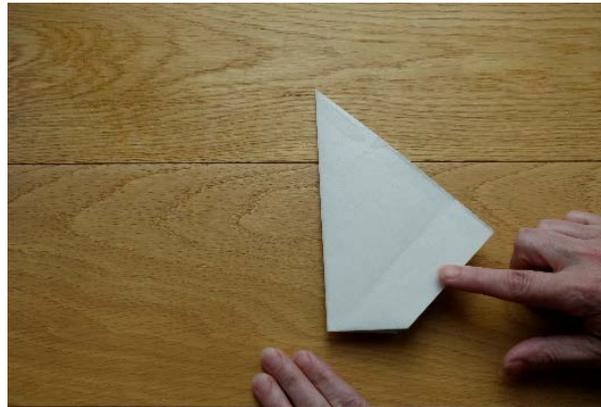
2. Place your paper on a table or hard surface with side A facing up. Fold your square into a triangle. The triangle should be showing side B. Make sure that the fold is really well pressed down.

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3. Now open it up so that side A is facing up again. Move the sheet round so that it is pointing away from you on its corner (see picture).

Starting at the corner closest to you, carefully fold a triangle (1/3 of the sheet) so that the corner point lines up with the first fold line in the centre of the sheet.

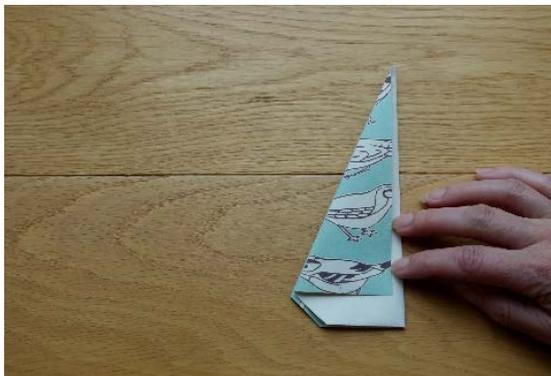


4. Turn your piece of paper over so that side B is now facing up. Now refold the paper along the first centre fold line. You have made the feet! Make sure that your penguin can stand up before going on to step 5.

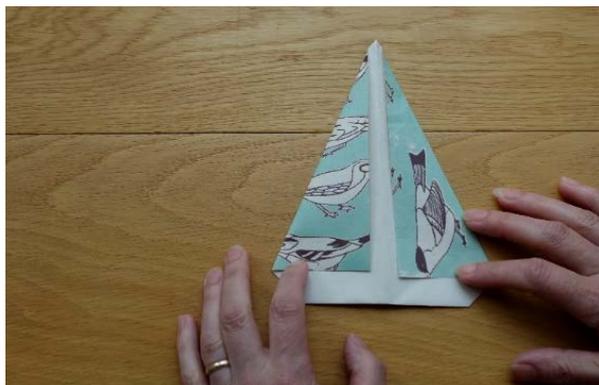


5. Next we are going to make your penguin's wings.

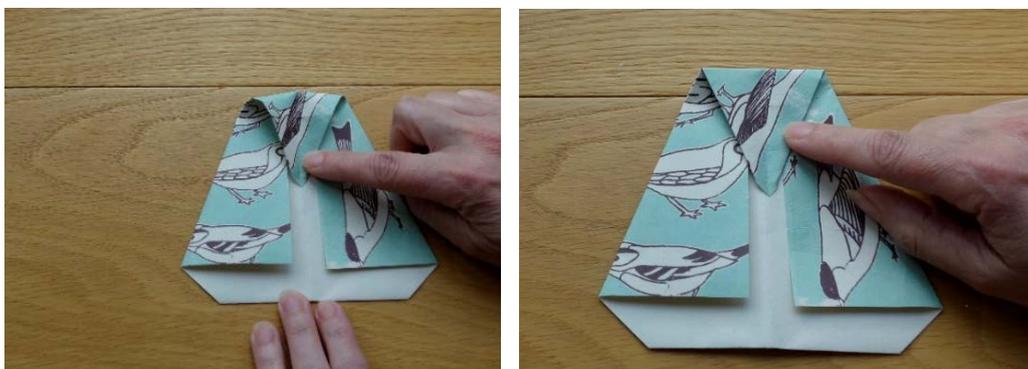
Place the sheet so the feet are closest to you, and there is one corner point facing straight ahead away from you, and another pointing to your right. Starting at the right-hand corner, gently fold a long triangle towards the centre fold to form a wing. Don't bring the paper all the way over to the middle, as penguins do like to have their tummies on show!



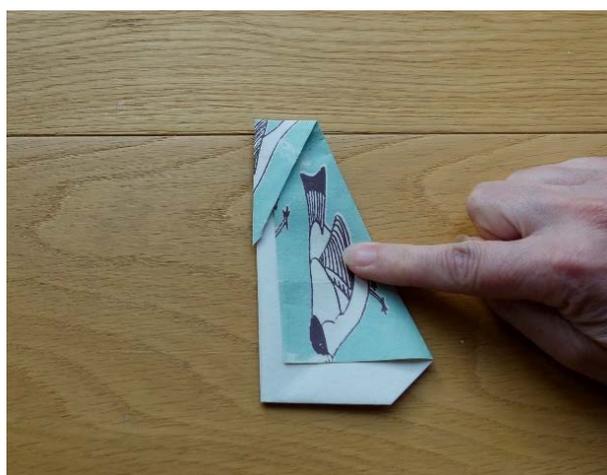
6. Turn your penguin over and repeat step 5 on the other side. Your penguin now has wings.



7. Open the penguin out flat, with its feet closest to you, so that you can see its tummy and both wings.



8. Decide what size you want the penguin's head to be and fold down towards you along the centre fold.



9. Turn your penguin over and fold in half along the centre fold. Run your finger along all the edges to make sure that all the folds are pressed down tightly.



10. The next step is a little bit tricky... Pick your penguin up and hold it along the wing with one hand, and hold the tip of its beak with the thumb and forefinger on your other hand.

Gently pull its beak out until it's in a position you like. Keep holding the beak with your thumb and forefinger. Then carefully move your other hand up from the wing and press on the top of the penguins head until the head stays in position.

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11. All that's left is for you to add eyes and name your penguin!

Why not make your own rookery of penguins? You could make different sized penguins and decorate each one individually.

Don't forget to share pictures of your penguins with us!



facebook.com/polarmuseum | twitter.com/scottpolar | instagram.com/scott.polar/

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