

Cooperative Colonies

In Antarctica, scientists found one of Earth's largest Emperor penguin colonies—9,000 penguins in all! In 2009, evidence of the colony was discovered in satellite images. Then in 2012, a team made a long journey and became the first humans to see the group.

"Despite global warming, this colony . . . is growing," said one scientist. Emperor penguins work as a team to survive in their harsh habitat. Around June (which is early winter), mothers each lay one egg, then give them to the fathers to keep warm. While

the females travel far to find food, the males huddle together, protecting their eggs and each other from bitter winds—and eating nothing! When the mothers return in about two months, they feed the chicks, and the hungry fathers go hunting.

The chicks grow quickly. By December, when the sea ice begins to break up, they're ready to hunt on their own.

Even in the coldest temperatures, the warmth of unity helps Emperor penguins to thrive.

Search the ice and unscramble qualities that describe the Emperor penguin community.

WHILE PROTECTING THEIR EGGS, MALES TAKE TURNS IN THE COLDEST AND WARMEST SPOTS IN THE HUDDLE.

