

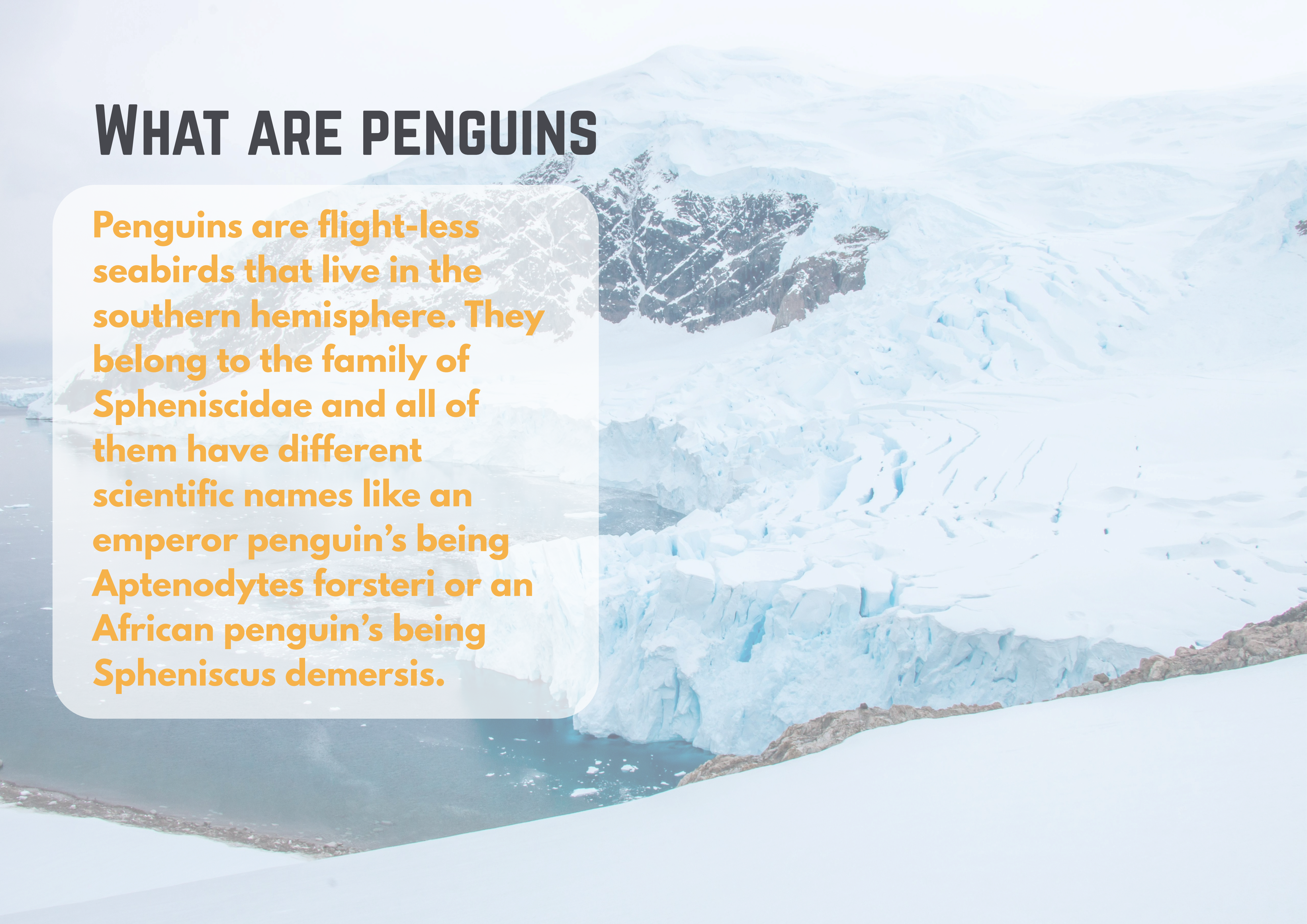


PENGUINS

By Ashley

WHAT ARE PENGUINS

Penguins are flight-less seabirds that live in the southern hemisphere. They belong to the family of Spheniscidae and all of them have different scientific names like an emperor penguin's being *Aptenodytes forsteri* or an African penguin's being *Spheniscus demersus*.



ADAPTATIONS

African and emperor penguins have different adaptations that help them survive in their environments. Emperor penguins have thick and layered feathers which keep them warm during snowstorms or blizzards, but African penguins lie on their chests and stretch their bare feet out which exposes them to cooler air and helps them cool down in the heat.



HABITAT

Unlike other penguins, African penguins live near rocky coastlines in South Africa while emperor penguins live in Antarctica. Both of these species eat different fish with African penguins eating anchovies or sardines and emperor penguins eating antarctic krill.



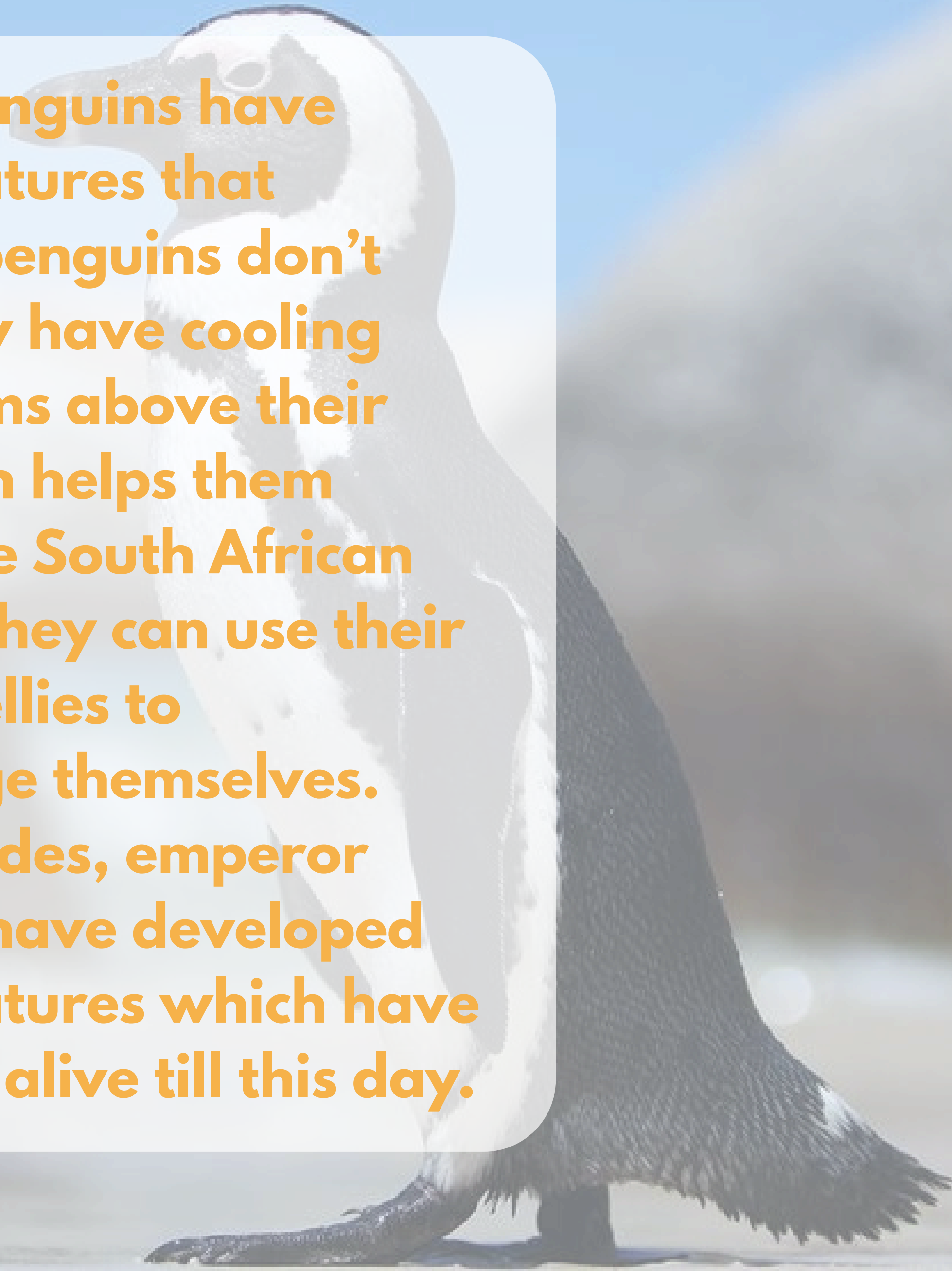
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Emperor penguins have a tuxedo-like appearance with their backs being black and their bellies being white, but African penguins on the other hand have a black and white spotted belly pattern. Baby emperor penguins or chicks hatch covered with fluffy silver feathers but baby african penguins are the complete opposite. They hatch with thick brown fur.



NATURAL SELECTION

African penguins have special features that emperor penguins don't have. They have cooling mechanisms above their eyes which helps them survive the South African heat and they can use their spotted bellies to camouflage themselves. Over decades, emperor penguins have developed special features which have kept them alive till this day.



OTHER INFORMATION

Out of all the 18 species of penguin, emperor penguins are the largest penguins. They stand at 120 cm tall which is equivalent to the height of a six year old and they weigh approximately 40kg. African penguins are some of the only penguins that live in a warm area instead of a cold and snowy environment. They are also known for being very social and interactive towards their caretakers and other penguins in their colony, but due to climate change, human activities, and overfishing, they are endangered.

