

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Scientists shocked as plucky penguins defy disaster

This is an edited version of a story from
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In May a huge iceberg broke off from an Antarctic ice shelf, drifted, and came to a stop — right in front of “maybe the world’s unluckiest” penguins.

The iceberg's huge walls sealed off the penguin colony from the sea.

It seemed to spell the end for hundreds of chicks whose mothers, out hunting for food, may no longer have been able to reach them.

Scientists have now discovered that the brave penguins found a way to beat the iceberg.

This label of “maybe the world’s unluckiest penguins” comes from scientist Peter Fretwell.

They were once part of a stable colony with 14,000 to 25,000 breeding pairs annually. But in 2019, news came of a breeding failure. Peter and his colleagues discovered that for three years the colony had failed to raise any chicks.

Baby penguins need to live on sea ice until they are strong enough to survive in open water. But climate change is warming the oceans and air, contributing to sea ice becoming more unstable.

A few hundred of the colony moved their home and kept the group going. That is

until the A83 iceberg separated from the Brunt Ice Shelf in May.

Peter feared a total wipe-out.

It has happened to other penguin colonies before. But, against the odds, he found what he hoped for — a brown smudge on the white ice sheet. The penguins are alive. But how they survived remains a mystery. The iceberg could be around 15m tall, meaning the penguins could not climb it.

“There’s an ice crack, so they might have been able to dive through it,” he says.

But Antarctica remains a rapidly changing region affected by our warming planet, as well as natural challenges that make life difficult there.

The ice sheet where the penguins now live is unpredictable. Cracks have appeared in the ice and the edge with the sea is getting closer day-by-day.

If the ice breaks up under the chicks before they can swim, Peter warns they will be in danger.

“Like many animals in Antarctica, they live on the sea ice. But it is changing, and if your habitat changes then it’s never good,” he says.



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TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Penguins can also be found in the North Pole.



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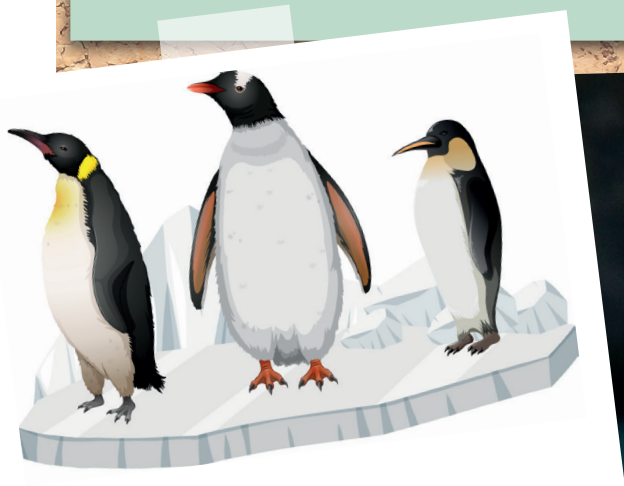
Watch [this report](#) on 10 amazing penguin facts!



CHECK YOUR FACTS

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| WHAT happened to put the penguins in danger? | WHO were surprised when the penguins survived? | WHERE does the penguin colony live? | WHEN did the iceberg break away? | WHY are the penguins still in danger? | HOW does Peter think the penguins survived? |
| ANSWER: Separated from mothers by an iceberg | ANSWER: Scientists | ANSWER: Antarctica | ANSWER: Earlier this year | ANSWER: Climate change | ANSWER: Dived underneath the iceberg |



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