



*Reading  
activity 3*

# Life Cycle of a Yellow-Eyed Penguin

9 Two greenish-white eggs are laid and are incubated by  
19 both parents for about 43 days. When the eggs hatch,  
30 the parents guard the chicks, day and night, for forty to  
41 fifty days. One parent will stay with the chicks while the  
44 other collects food.

54 After the chick moults and loses their soft, brown down,  
63 they develop waterproof plumage and are ready to fledge  
73 (leave the nest). The juvenile penguins head out to sea  
83 cautiously to collect their own food: not all return. When  
93 they are adults and ready to breed, most penguins return  
103 to the safe place where they were born – their built-in  
109 satellite navigation systems get them there!



# Quick Questions



1. Which word means the same as young?

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2. How long do the parent penguins guard the chicks?

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3. Why do you think the penguins return to the place they were born when they are ready to breed?

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4. Why does the author use the word 'cautiously' to describe how the juveniles head out to sea?

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