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African Penguin



Getting to know...

the African Penguin

Region & Habitat	Along the southwestern coastline of Africa, primarily in Namibia and South Africa.
Classification	Bird
Size	4.9 - 7.7lbs & 24-28 inches tall
Nocturnal or Diurnal	Crepuscular (active at dawn & dusk)
Conservation Status	Critically Endangered
Average Lifespan	10-15 years in the wild, 20 years in protected environments.
Gestational Period	38-42 days
Diet	Small fish, crustaceans, like krill and shrimp
Scientific Name	Spheniscus demersus
Hibernate	No, active year-round
Fun Fact	They also lack teeth, but instead, have papillae (backward-facing spines) in their mouths to help them swallow slippery fish.

Also known as the South African Penguin or Cape Penguin, the African Penguin inhabits the chilly waters off Africa's southern coast. Its dense, waterproof plumage, a mosaic of black,



white, and grey, provides insulation and keeps it dry. As one of the smallest penguin species, the African Penguin is distinguished by unique, dot-like markings scattered across its white chest. These flecks are as individual as human fingerprints, allowing for the identification of each specific penguin. African Penguins in South Africa have a unique way to regulate their body temperature: a patch

of bare skin above each eye. When a penguin gets hotter, more blood flows to these patches. The surrounding air then cools this blood, which in turn helps cool the bird. As a result of the increased blood flow, these bare patches become pinker when the penguin warms up. African Penguins are agile hunters, preying on fast-moving marine life such as sardines, anchovies, squid, and crustaceans. These birds demonstrate impressive aquatic abilities, capable of holding their breath for over two minutes and diving to depths exceeding 400 feet. Daily, an African Penguin consumes up to one pound of food, which equates to roughly 14% of its body weight. Numbering in the millions in the early part of the 20th century, the African Penguin's numbers have dwindled over the years to a mere 42,000 individuals remaining today. Their diminishing numbers are due to habitat loss, over-fishing, and coastal development.

Word Search

G L F J T R N Y M C J O O L T H Q N
R H A F W A G U I G L M P G G T R C
B B T Z W L Y N C I K I P Z R C S P
I T L R V U N F U I J C M Q A K U Z
N J A H R C A U K F A T H E G Q C H
Q X Y U L S L H X B C J A Q K T S N
R I E F C U C S J P K W R B M U I R
Q S R P S P O A S L A H F I A T N T
N Z S V F E L H Z A S P S C F M E S
H E A A Q R O L E N S X I L O L H Q
Z H M D Z C N N H Y I R I L Z E P L
P I W D G R Y N I G F G T T L U S E
D G E C L B B L G A H E U Q F A Q V
P D K Y O J V H C T U S O O Z U E J
Y X N S O O M A L S T Y V E D E Q W
G P O K M R C E O S R S S U L M N G
L F O Z I S S E I V O H C N A R H P
O T L N C S S E Y E K N I P W V A V

Papillae

Africa

Crepuscular

Colony

Jackass

Anchovies

Flightless

Spheniscus

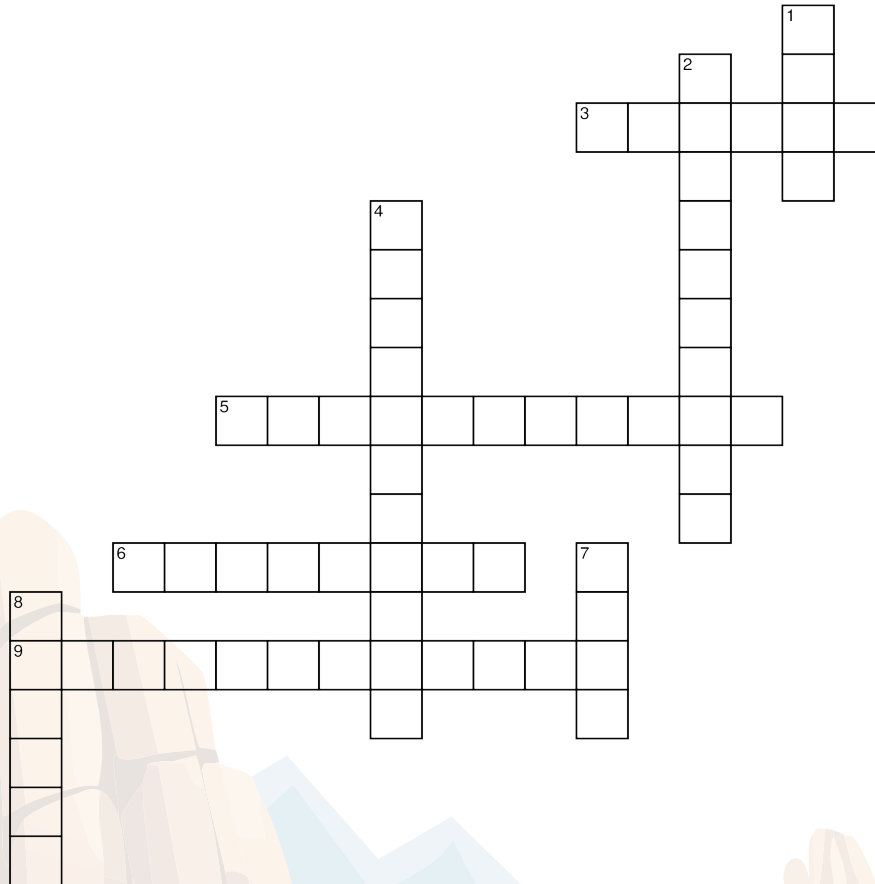
Fat Layers

Pink Eyes

Zoos

Molt

Crossword



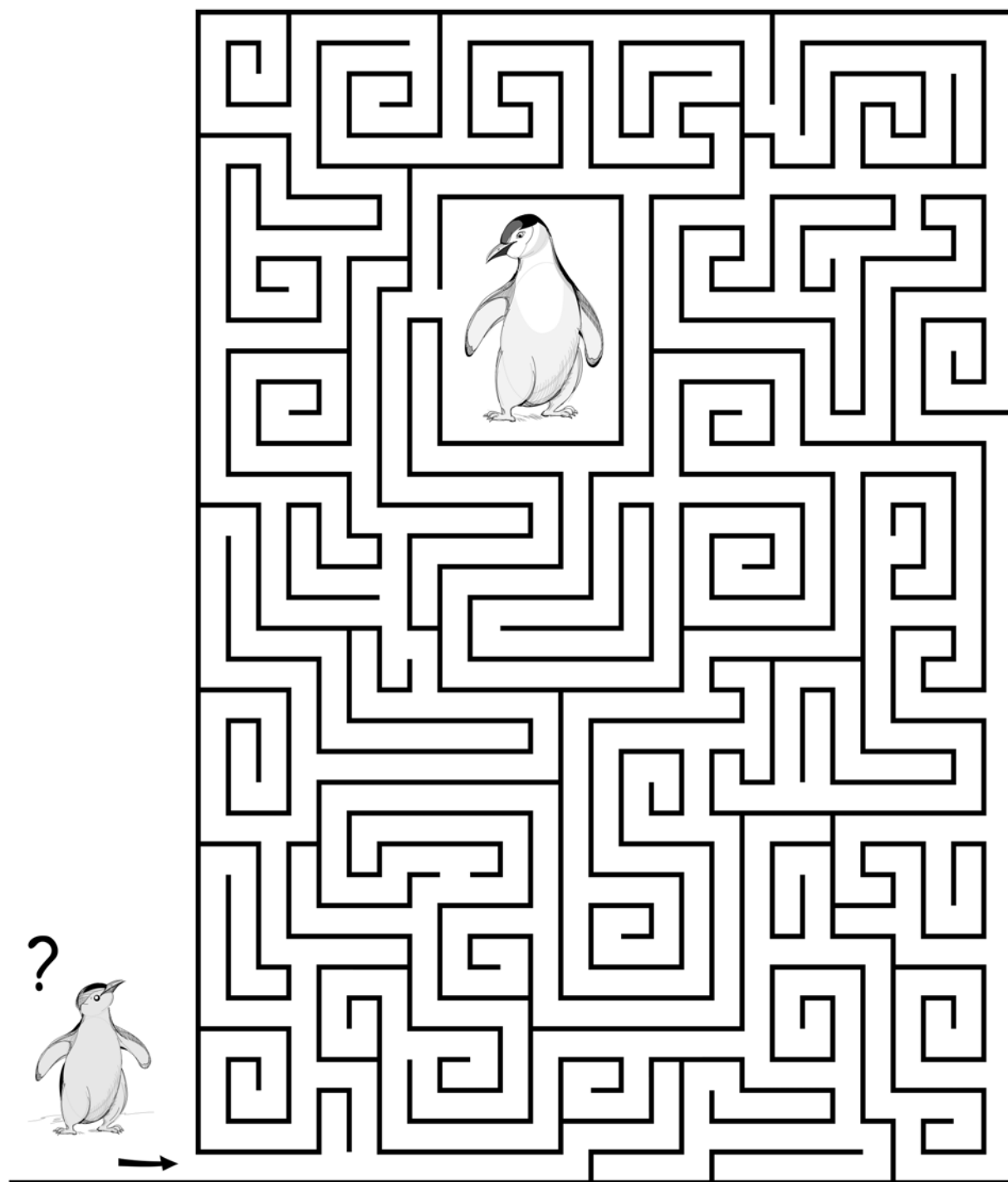
Across

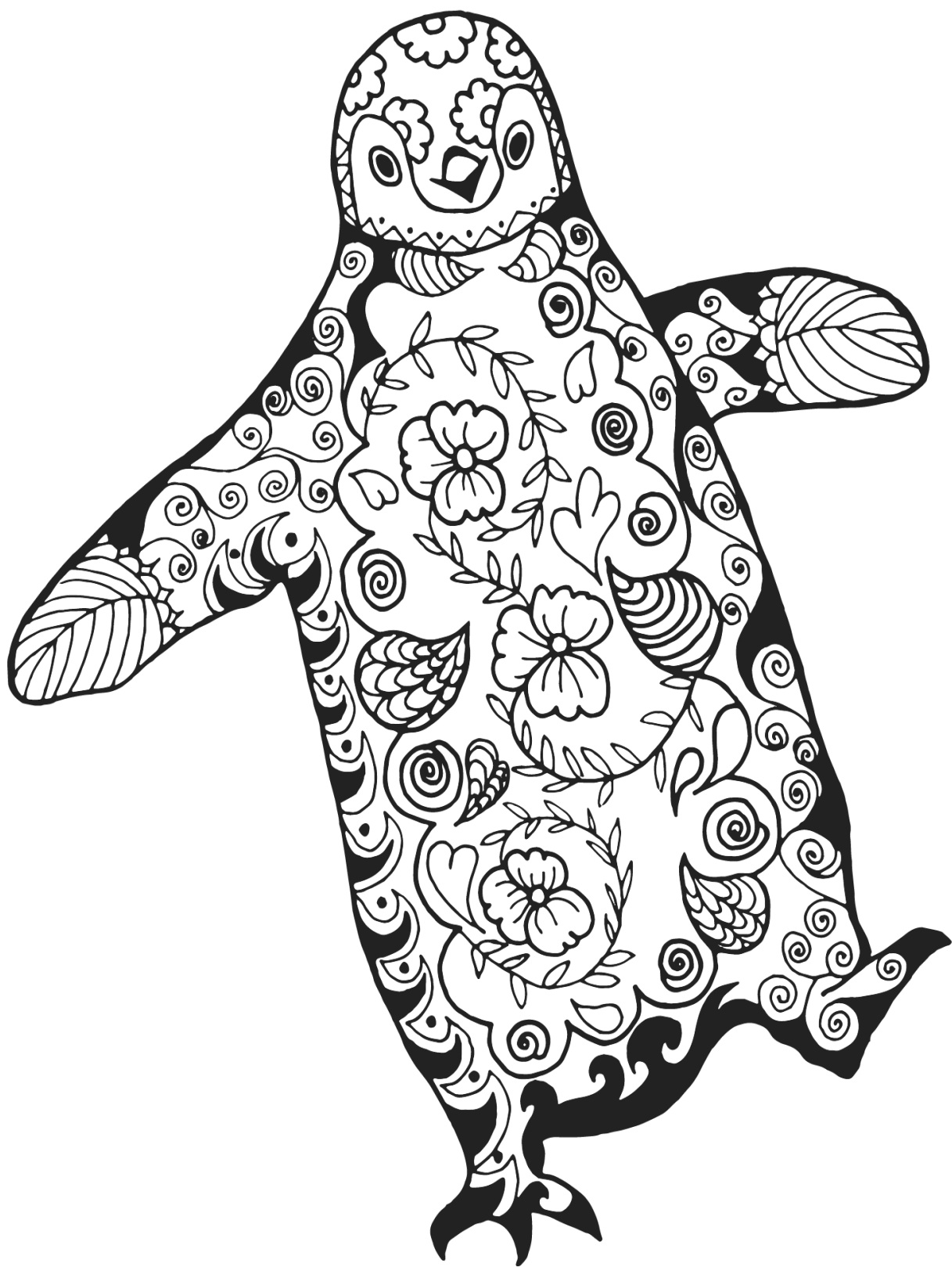
- [3]** Color of hot bare patches
- [5]** Another name for this penguin (2 words)
- [6]** Their population in thousands today
- [9]** Unique markings on their chest are like this

Down

- [1]** plumage color besides black and white
- [2]** What their dense plumage provides
- [4]** Skin patches regulate body _____
- [7]** Their primary food source
- [8]** The Continent where they live

Maze





Solutions

