

# Humboldt Penguin Interpretation Binder



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# Humboldt Penguin Interpretation Binder

## Interpretive Cart Guidelines:

### When staffing the Humboldt Penguin interpretive station:

1. Find all of the biofacts that you will need and place them into an interpretation station box for transportation (a list of all of the biofacts you need can be found in this binder).
2. Bring chairs (optional, are located in the CEF building) and the box down with you to the silver table that is permanently set up near the exhibit.
3. Place tablecloth on the table.
4. Group and place the Biofacts and laminated info sheets based on species.
- 5. KEEP AN EYE ON BIOFACTS AT ALL TIMES.**
6. An adult must accompany small children at all times.
7. Follow the talking point outline in the binder.
8. If you have to leave, put everything away in the box and take it back to DC. Do not leave anything unattended.
- 9. Reminder: Zooteens must always travel in pairs, unless stated otherwise!**
10. **At the end of the day**, put **EVERYTHING** back in the box and pack it back up to DC. (If you brought chairs, put them back in the CEF building and lock it)
11. Record each topic discussed during your shift in the binder.
12. Return biofacts and binder to the docent area where they were found.

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## Biofacts for Humboldt Penguin Interpretation:

**\*COMING SOON\***

<u>Biofacts:</u>	
Biofact:	Use:

## Biofacts Talking Points:

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## Animal Talking Points:

### Humboldt Penguin

#### Habitat:

1. The Humboldt penguin lives along the coasts of Chile and Peru in the southeastern Pacific Ocean.
  - a. They nest on islands and rocky coasts and feed in surrounding waters.
2. Their habitat is highly influenced by the cold Humboldt Current flowing from Antarctica.
  - a. This current is nutrient rich and vital to the productivity of plankton and krill which fosters fish abundance.



#### Physical Description:

1. Humboldt penguins are classified as medium sized penguins.
  - a. They grow to be about 26 to 28 inches in length.
  - b. They weigh about 10.4 pounds.



2. They have blackish-gray upperparts, white underparts, a black breast band, and a black head with white strips running from the eyes.
  - a. Juveniles have dark heads but no breast bands.
  - b. Their coloring helps protect them in the water- the white blends in with the bright ocean surface.

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## Diet:

1. Humboldt penguins feed primarily on fish, especially anchovies and herring.



a. They also eat squid and crustaceans like shrimp.

2. They actually don't have to drink water!

a. Like all penguins, they have a special gland that removes salt from their bodies after they swallow saltwater!

3. These penguins have been known to travel long distances at sea to find food.

a. This has become popular in recent years as prey species are becoming increasingly scarce.

## Behavior:

1. These penguins have sensitive eyes to better see underwater colors (violet, blue, and green)

a. Their eyes also have a second transparent eyelid, serving as "goggles" when underwater!

b. Humboldt penguins spend 75% of their lifetime in water.

c. Most dives last about 6 minutes, but Humboldts can hold their breath up to 18 minutes!

2. Humboldt penguins create lifetime partnerships!



a. In the wild, Humboldt penguins breed any time of the year.

b. Typically in human care, they will breed in late winter- early spring with chicks hatching in spring!

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c. They dig burrow-like nests among piles of guano (large amounts of bird excrement) in caves and along cliffs.

3. Females lay one or two eggs.

a. Eggs are incubated for about 40 days by both parents.

b. Chicks fledge after about 70 to 90 days and molt into adult feathers about a year later.

4. Penguins use their voices to communicate like humans!

a. They make different sounds to show alarm or aggression, recognize family members, or coordinate a group.

b. The most common sound of a Humboldt penguin sounds like a Donkey bray- Hawwww!

5. This penguin's lifespan is about 20 years.

6. Their natural predators include leopard seals, fur seals, sea lions, sharks and Orcas.

## Populations

1. There were once estimated more than a million Humboldt penguins in the wild in the mid- 19<sup>th</sup> century.

2. Now after multiple El Nino crises and other conservation issues, there are only 3,300 Humboldt penguins in existence.



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## Conservation Highlights:

1. Humboldt Penguins are labeled as Threatened conservation status.
2. Humboldt penguin populations were first devastated by the mining of guano deposits (large bird excrement piles) for fertilizer.
  - a. These penguins prefer to nest in these deposits.
3. After having a slight recovery from these decreasing population numbers, these penguins now face a new threat- climate change.
  - a. Changes in ocean currents and temperatures in the Pacific Ocean threaten the stability of the Humboldt Current from Antarctica.
  - b. The El Nino southern oscillation events reduce the upwelling of cold, nutrient rich waters.
    - i. This reduces the penguin's prey productivity.
4. Humboldt penguins are also imperiled by intense commercial fishing and oil pollution.
  - a. Humans fish for anchovetta, which they harvest to make bone meal for animal feed.
  - b. This puts Humboldts in a resource competition they cannot win.

## **There is HOPE!**

1. Since 1995, Chile has had a 30-year ban on the hunting and capture of Humboldts.
2. In Peru, guano mining in penguin reserves is limited and a penguin protection contract must be signed if mining is permitted.
3. AZA zoos across the nation participate in a Species Survival Program to help increase number of healthy captive Humboldts!

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## Facts about Our Penguins:

Name	Gender	Hatch Date	Arm Band Color
<b>Tyrone</b>	Male	2/3/2013	Right Wing- Light Blue with Pink
<b>Olivia</b>	Female	3/30/2015	Left Wing- Black with Red
<b>Prince</b>	Male	2/18/2016	Right Wing- Purple with Yellow
<b>Angelita</b>	Female	3/20/2017	Left Wing- Dark Blue with Green
<b>Carlito</b>	Male	4/24/2018	Right Wing- Orange with Yellow
<b>Marcona</b>	Female	4/5/2019	Left Wing- Clear with Orange-Yellow
<b>Bill</b>	Male	4/3/2019	Right Wing- Light Blue
<b>Calypso</b>	Female	3/27/2018	Left Wing- Yellow with Blue
<b>Marco</b>	Male	4/12/2019	Black- B14
<b>Chirrida</b>	Female	11/5/2017	Black-A07

Following AZA's Humboldt Penguin Species Survival program recommendations, our penguins come from all over the country! 6 are from Seattle, 2 are from Columbus and 2 are from St. Louis!

We have 6 more penguins arriving soon from Philadelphia (1.1, Harper and Nola), Brookfield (1.0) and San Diego (3.0)!

### **Our Penguin's Favorite Foods:**

Herring- Tyrone, Prince, Angelita, Bill Calypso

Silversides- Olivia

Capelin- Marcona

ANY KIND OF FISH!!- Carlito (has been nicknamed "The Garbage Can")

### **Penguin Personalities:**

Marcona is the most curious and very friendly with people!

Bill and Calypso are the most vocal.

Olivia and Angelita are picky eaters.

Tyrone seems to be the leader of the pack!



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## Animal ID Photos:

Prince (In front with purple arm band)



Tyrone (blue with pink arm band)

Olivia (left) Bill (right)



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## Resources:

[https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/birds/penguins/Humboldt\\_penguin.html](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/birds/penguins/Humboldt_penguin.html)

<https://www.stlzoo.org/animals/abouttheanimals/birds/penguins/humboldtpenguin>