

Scarlet's Adventure: Waddling Around

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Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is home to many cool animals. Some of these animals live in the water, others might fly through the sky. One animal that can fly is named Scarlet, the Macaw. Scarlet and her friend, Michelle, happily adventure through the Aquarium so that they can Explore, Discover, and Learn about earth's diverse ecosystems! Today the duo learned about Gentoo penguins with Karli, the penguins' primary caretaker.

Gentoo penguins are birds, but unlike Scarlet, they don't fly. They glide through the water and waddle on the land. They have black on their backs and white on their stomachs. This is called counter-shading! If a penguin is swimming through the water and a creature is swimming above them, they will blend in with the dark ocean water. If an animal looks at the penguin from below, the penguin will look like the sky.

The penguins at the aquarium collectively eat almost 40 pounds of fish a day! Wow! That's a lot! The people on the penguin team make sure they get all of the fish that they need to be healthy and strong. In the wild, people don't give penguins food. We can make sure that we leave some fish in the wild for penguins and other animals by researching what kinds of fish to eat. If we eat fish from big populations then there will be enough to share with fish-eating animals.

Scarlet and Michelle also learned that the penguins at the aquarium all have distinct personalities. If you take a quiz on the aquarium website, you can find out what penguin you are most like. It is fun to make connections with animals.

It is important to learn about penguins because we share a planet with them.

What can YOU do to help the penguins?