

# ASSIGNMENT 224 TASK 2

## ASSIGNMENT BRIEF

### Task 2

Choose one egg bearing and one live young bearing animal:

#### Sea horse Emperor penguin

Produce a fact sheet that includes both animals showing their method of reproduction, the length of gestation/egg development, average number of young/egg and whether the animal is live bearing or egg laying.

### Seahorses

#### General Information

- **Common Name:** Seahorse
- **Scientific Family:** Syngnathidae
- **Habitat:** Coastal waters, coral reefs, seagrass beds
- **Distribution:** Worldwide in tropical and temperate waters



#### Method of Reproduction

- **Unique Reproduction:** Seahorses are known for their unusual method of reproduction, where the male carries the eggs in a specialised pouch.
- **Courtship:** Seahorses engage in a complex courtship dance that can last for several days. This dance includes swimming together, changing colours, and mirroring each other's movements.
- **Egg Transfer:** During mating, the female deposits her eggs into the male's brood pouch, located on his abdomen.



#### Length of Gestation/Egg Development

- **Gestation Period:** The length of the gestation period varies by species but generally lasts from 10 days to 6 weeks.
- **Egg Development:** Once the eggs are in the male's pouch, he fertilises them internally and carries them until they hatch. The brood pouch provides oxygen and nutrients, and regulates salinity.

#### Average Number of Young/Egg

- **Brood Size:** The average number of young varies by species but typically ranges from 50 to 1,500.
- **Hatching:** After the gestation period, the male goes through labor, expelling fully formed, miniature seahorses from his pouch.



#### Live Bearing or Egg Laying

- **Live Bearing:** Seahorses are considered live-bearing animals because the male gives birth to live young rather than laying eggs externally.

#### Additional Interesting Facts

- **Male Pregnancy:** Seahorses are one of the few species where the male becomes pregnant.
- **Monogamous Pairing:** Many seahorse species form monogamous pairs during the breeding season and often for life.
- **Camouflage Experts:** Seahorses can change colour to blend into their surroundings, helping them avoid predators.

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**Emperor Penguin Fact Sheet**

**General Information**

- **Common Name:** Emperor Penguin
- **Scientific Name:** Aptenodytes forsteri
- **Habitat:** Antarctic ice and surrounding waters
- **Distribution:** Exclusively found in Antarctica



**Method of Reproduction**

- **Breeding Season:** Emperor Penguins breed during the harsh Antarctic winter.
- **Courtship:** Courtship involves vocalisations and displays where the male and female face each other, extending their necks and producing a series of calls.
- **Mating:** Once a pair bond is established, the female lays a single egg.



**Length of Gestation/Egg Development**

- **Egg Laying:** Female Emperor Penguins lay one egg in May or June.
- **Incubation Period:** The incubation period lasts about 64-67 days.
- **Parental Care:** After laying the egg, the female transfers it to the male, who balances it on his feet and covers it with a brood pouch to keep it warm. The female then returns to the sea to feed.

**Average Number of Young/Egg**

- **Clutch Size:** Emperor Penguins typically lay one egg per breeding season.
- **Hatching:** The chick hatches after the incubation period. The male continues to keep the chick warm until the female returns with food.

**Live Bearing or Egg Laying**

- **Egg Laying:** Emperor Penguins are egg-laying birds. They lay a single egg which is incubated by the male.

**Additional Interesting Facts**

- **Male Incubation:** The male Emperor Penguin incubates the egg throughout the harsh winter, fasting and enduring temperatures as low as -60°C (-76°F) and winds of up to 200 km/h (124 mph).
- **Female Foraging:** During the incubation period, females travel to the sea to feed, often covering distances of up to 80 km (50 miles) to reach open water.
- **Chick Rearing:** Once the female returns, she regurgitates food for the newly hatched chick. Both parents take turns feeding and caring for the chick until it is old enough to fend for itself.
- **Adaptations:** Emperor Penguins have several adaptations for cold environments, including a thick layer of blubber, dense feathers, and the ability to huddle together to conserve warmth.

**Conservation Status**

- **Threats:** Emperor Penguins face threats from climate change, which affects sea ice patterns and food availability, as well as potential human disturbances.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Conservation efforts include monitoring population trends, protecting their habitat, and studying the impacts of climate change to develop effective conservation strategies.

