

Name _____

Penguin Protectors: The Vital Role of Penguins in Their Ecosystem

Short Answer Key

1. Penguins play a role as top predators in their ecosystem by controlling prey populations.
2. Penguin guano contributes to nutrient cycling in their habitats by fertilizing the soil with nitrogen and phosphorus.
3. Changes in penguin populations can indicate the health of their ecosystem by reflecting broader shifts in the ecosystem, such as overfishing or pollution.
4. Penguins play a role in scientific research and education by serving as ambassadors for conservation and providing insights into broader ecological processes.
5. The guano of penguins is important for plant growth because it is rich in nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

