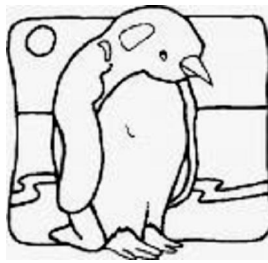


## Penguin Colors

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A long, long time ago in a time when penguins were all white, a penguin, named Nicole, spotted a big bucket of black water. In reality it was a bucket of black oil used for penguin ice sleds. Nicole wanted to tell her best friend, Ella, about the black oil because she thought it was so strange. As she turned around, Nicole tripped on a stone and fell into the black oil. By the time she climbed out, she was black everywhere except for her belly.



Now Nicole really wanted to tell Ella about her disastrous incident. On the way to Ella's igloo, she came across many of her penguin friends playing on the ice. The other penguins started making fun of her. They started calling her "Black Back" and "Fashion Disaster." Nicole hurried along to Ella's. She was glad to be rid of the other penguins. She finally arrived at Ella's igloo where Ruby, Nicole and Ella's other best friend, was there helping Ella with homework. Because of her dramatic color change, Ella and Ruby did not recognize her until she started to talk.

Ella and Ruby set about trying to help their friend. They tried several different ways to get the oil off Nicole. They gave her baths. They put lotion on

her body. They scrubbed and scrubbed her with a cleaning brush. Nothing worked. This made the three of them sad.

Finally, Ella and Ruby felt so bad for Nicole, they went to find the bucket of oil because they didn't want Nicole to feel any worse. Without hesitation, they jumped into the black oil. They floated on their backs for a few seconds. When they climbed out, they looked exactly like Nicole. Again they set off to find Nicole. Ella and Ruby wanted to show Nicole that they looked just like her. They were friends, and they were willing to stand up for her.



Soon Ella and Ruby found Nicole. The three friends looked at each other. They looked alike. They were all black with a white belly. Later that night when the other penguins saw Ella, Ruby, and Nicole together, they began to like the new look. And before you knew it, every penguin wanted the new style. One by one every penguin was bathing in the black oil. From that day to this penguins are born with black bodies and white bellies. All thanks to the three friends, Ella, Nicole, and Ruby.