

Watching Penguins

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



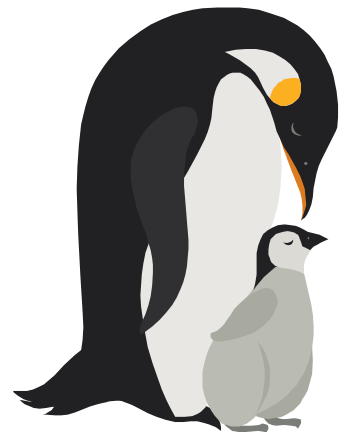
It was night time, and that meant something special for Alisa. It meant penguins! At night, when it was time for bed, her family turned on the computer. On the computer, her dad went to a website and turned on a webcam. Alisa and her family would get together on the floor with pillows and blankets and watch the screen before bedtime.

The webcam was from a zoo, and it was in the penguin habitat. There were many penguins in the exhibit, and they all walked around and acted silly. The penguins were surrounded by rocks and snow, and there was even a place where they could jump in the water to go for a swim. Together, her family laughed at the silly little baby penguins that liked to run around with their flipper arms out. They smiled when two penguins started flapping their wings at each other and called out at each other. That was how they argued.

There were several kinds of penguins they could see. Some were tall, with orange spots on their necks. Others looked like they had yellow fuzzy stripes on their heads. Other ones were black and white with grey eyes, and they were much smaller than the others. Alisa liked those the most, because they ran fast. The biggest ones, the Emperor penguins, were fun to look at, too. They puffed out their chests and sat very still.

Sometimes the people at the zoo would come out in winter clothes, because it was cold there, and they would feed the penguins. That was Alisa's favorite time to watch. The woman would trudge back and forth with big boots on, carrying a shiny silver pail. The little penguins gathered around first, snapping up snacks and tidbits from her gloved hands. Then the big ones would get their food, which was usually a big frozen fish. They'd gulp it down in one shot.

After half an hour of watching the penguins, Alisa's eyes would get heavy, and she'd start to doze off. When she woke up the next day, she was in bed. Her father or mother must have carried her there. It was fun to watch the penguins at night. She learned so much, and she got to spend time with her family.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does Alisa's family watch at bedtime?
 - A. TV
 - B. movies
 - C. cartoons
 - D. a webcam

2. What does the webcam show?
 - A. lions
 - B. penguins
 - C. polar bears
 - D. fish

3. What kind of penguin does Alisa like the most?
 - A. The biggest ones
 - B. The little black and white fast ones that ran around
 - C. The ones with fuzzy stripes on their heads
 - D. She likes all of them the same.

4. When does Alisa enjoy watching the penguins the most?
 - A. feeding time
 - B. when the penguins are playing
 - C. when the penguins call to each other
 - D. when the penguins chase each other

5. What are the two reasons Alisa likes watching the penguins?
 - A. She learns a lot, and it's fun.
 - B. She spends time with her family, and she sleeps.
 - C. She learns a lot, and she spends time with her friends.
 - D. She learns a lot, and she spends time with her family.

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