



GIANT PANDA

An Endangered Animal

By Daniel Block

Grade 5

Leverett Elementary School

Winter 2013

<http://www.lovethepics.com/2012/04/buckets-of-cute-pandas-at-sichuan-giant-panda-sanctuaries-42-photos/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Names	4
Description	5
Range, Population, and Habitat	6
Threats	7
Solutions	8
Bibliography	9



http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01703/panda-playing_1703682i

Introduction

What's big, fluffy, black and white that lives in China? It's a Giant Panda Bear. Giant Panda Bears are headed for extinction! They are an extraordinary animal that needs our help.

Names

The Giant Panda bear has been called some interesting names. The Giant Panda bear's common names

are Giant Panda or panda. The scientific

name for the panda is *Ailuropoda*

Melanoleuca, which is Latin for “black

and white cat foot.” The Chinese name

for the panda bear is *Daxiomgmao*, which

means “large bear cat.”



<http://www.lovethepics.com/2012/04/buckets-of-cute-pandas-at-sichuan-giant-panda-sanctuaries-42-photos/>



<http://images.wikia.com/legomessageboards/images/b/b9/Panda-sleep-2.jpg>



<http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/11/panda-f8a7c9331bbac776e52b26feccc53de959f46d1-s6-c10.jpg>

Description

Panda Bears have a quite interesting appearance. The white and black patches camouflage them in snowy, rocky environments. Regular bears have round pupils. But panda bears have cat-like eyes that re-slit. Pandas can weigh up to two hundred to three hundred thirty pounds. The male can be up to five to six feet long, and three feet tall. The female can be 5.25 feet long and 2.5 feet tall.

Panda Bears have a few unique abilities. One is that Panda Bears have an opposable thumb that helps them to grip bamboo. Another one is that they can make from eleven to thirty different sounds! Four of these are mating sounds.



<http://panda-bear-new-album.kungfupandass.com/images/where-do-panda-bears-live-3.jpg>

For these reasons, the Panda Bear is not like other common bears.

Range, Population, and Habitat

Panda Bears only live in a few places. They live in cool, wet forests of central China, mainly the Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu provinces. They dig dens in the ground to hibernate and give birth.

There are not many Giant Panda Bears left in the world. There are about 1,000 to 1,500 living in the wild. In zoos and breeding centers, there are only 120 Pandas. Their population is decreasing because people are destroying their habitat. Unless those numbers increase, Giant Panda Bears

will probably go extinct.

Threats

There are a few reasons why Panda Bears are headed for extinction. One of the reasons is that the habitat they live in is getting cut down and destroyed by humans. People are cutting down the forests because in China the population is rising and they need more space to make homes and towns.

Another reason is from poaching. People want the panda bear's fur because some people think the skin of a panda bear is a sign of courage. Also, the panda bear is losing its food supply of bamboo because it is part of the forests that are getting destroyed.



These are examples of new buildings in Southern China.

http://cdn0.sbnation.com/entry_photo_images/7425603/06east_large_verge_medium_landscape.jpg



<http://panda-bear-new-album.kungfupandass.com/images/where-do-panda-bears-live-3.jpg>

Solutions

As you can see, panda bears are extraordinary animals that need our help! So the best idea to help them is to spread the word that the giant panda bears are headed to extinction.

They are being poached and their homes are getting de-

stroyed. They are relying on us to help their population to rise. There-

fore, by learning what we can we will stop the destruction of their homes and help save their lives.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Claybourne, Anna. "Giant Panda." Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2005.

Cruickshank, Don. "Giant Pandas." NY, NY : Weigl Publishers, 2007.

Dudley, Karen. "Giant Pandas." Austin: Weigl Publishers, 1997.