

Teaching Material for Biodiversity Conservation (TMBC)

Title: The Giant Panda

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Quality Assessment: Carsten Hobohm

Type of Material: Story with a game

Aim: Children should develop an emotional connection with the panda, get to know the animal and develop an idea of what it means when animals are threatened by extinction.

The Panda Bao

Hello, I'm Bao and I am a panda. Many people also call me a giant panda. I am one of the most popular mammals in the world. One reason for this is my eye-catching fur. It is white, except for my legs, ears, eyes and my nose, which are black. Another thing that a lot of people know about me is that pandas are amongst the rarest and most endangered animals in the world.

My home is in Asia, in the mountains of China, to be exact. I live there alone in the forests, as pandas are solitary creatures. It gets really cold at the top of the mountains in the winter, but I'm well protected by my thick fur and the layer of fat underneath it, so I don't need to hibernate.

Even though I am a predator, I mainly eat one species of plant, called bamboo. I like bamboo sticks very much, but I have to eat ten to twenty kilograms a day to be full. I can sit and eat really comfortably because I can hold the bamboo stick very well with my forepaws.

Every year in the spring I search for a female panda to mate with so we can have a baby. After about four months the baby is born in the safety of a cave. In comparison to me and my weight of 100 kilograms, the baby is quite small. It weighs only 100 grams and is as tiny as a golden hamster. About one and a half years later the cub leaves its mother and searches for its own home. Pandas can reach an age of 25 years in the wild.

In the past it wasn't hard to find a new home with enough bamboo for everyone, but the population in China has grown since then and the Chinese people have cut our forests down. They also used to hunt my ancestors because they wanted to have their fur. Today there are only 2000 pandas left, and that is the reason why we are one of the rarest and most endangered animals in the world.

People have recently begun protecting us again. They are trying to save our forests and it is now illegal to hunt us. Hopefully these measures will help and we will soon have more pandas.

Information for the teacher (references)

Bonello, J (2013) : Species. Giant Panda (<http://worldwildlife.org/species/giant-panda>; downloaded 6.1.201)

Haugen, E (2014); Giant panda (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant_panda, downloaded 6.1.2014)

Are pandas mammals?	Yes, pandas are mammals.	Do pandas lay eggs?	No, pandas don't lay eggs.
The panda is in danger of...	extinction	It is also called _____	the giant panda
In which country does the panda live?	China	The layer of fat under its fur protects it against_____.	cold
As a living space pandas prefer _____.	the woods	Do pandas live in a herd?	No, they are solitary animals.
Does the panda hibernate?	No, they don't hibernate.	How long does a baby panda remain with its mother?	1.5 years
How long does a mother panda's pregnancy last?	four months	How long can pandas live?	up to 25 years

How much does a fully grown panda weigh?	100 kilograms	How much does a baby panda weigh?	100 grams
What does a panda like to eat?	bamboo	How many kilograms does a panda eat daily?	10-20 kilograms