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From Penguins to Pandas - the conservation game

The Giant Panda

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SCILT Scotland's
National Centre
for Languages

育 **SCEN**
SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

The Giant Panda

(Ailuropoda melanoleuca)

Size - The giant panda is a medium sized bear.

Length - 150-180cm; Tail - 12-15cm; Weight - 85-125kg.

Paws - They have an overgrown bone on their front paws which helps them to grip their bamboo.

Senses - The giant panda has an excellent sense of smell, good eyesight and can hear really well too. These senses are very important to the male and female when communicating and finding each other for mating.

Teeth - The giant panda has evolved broader back molars compared to other bears. These molars are better for chewing bamboo.

Food - The giant panda mainly eats bamboo. About 99% of their diet is bamboo but they will also eat fruits, small mammals and birds.

Habitat - The giant panda lives in mountains and woodlands.

Babies - The giant panda gives birth to a tiny baby about 15cm long. The baby has usually been inside mum for 5-6 months although the actual growing time is probably only 2 months. This is due to *delayed implantation* which means that the baby is held inside mum but isn't growing. Mum can give birth to 1 or 2 young but when 2 cubs are born, the mother will only rear the stronger cub.



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The Giant Panda

(Ailuropoda melanoleuca)

Lifestyle - Giant pandas are solitary which means they live on their own. They will mark their territory to warn away other male pandas. They shelter in trees and caves. They are good climbers and can swim. They tend to be active at night time or early morning and early evening but to save energy they do sleep a lot of the day.

From '**Panda - Back from the Brink**', introduction by Iain Valentine, Director of Giant Panda Project and Strategic Innovations, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland:

"China is a nation that will undoubtedly have a major role in shaping the world's future, and so its actions will impact on us all in many ways in the years to come. Through pandas we can learn much more about this diverse country - its people, its culture, its politics, its rich environment and wonderful biodiversity. We can learn more about China's environmental efforts, and we can share with China our own knowledge and experiences to further our own conservation efforts here in the UK..."

The Chinese government continues to allocate tremendous resources to the conservation of this species and the habitats that giant pandas occupy...

I struggle to think of any other species that can motivate the human race in the way pandas can: to provoke thought and to inspire us all to will the species on to become a resounding conservation success story."



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Follow -up work: activities to do **after** the outreach session.

This outreach is linked with learning languages. Mandarin Chinese is the main language in China. The other languages discussed in the outreach session were Portuguese and Spanish.

Practise writing the words for giant panda in Portuguese, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese:
What do you notice about the Portuguese and Spanish?

Portuguese:

panda gigante

Spanish:

panda gigante

Chinese:

大熊貓

[da xiong mao]

Please also see the following resource in this pack:

Chinese Animal Fact Files

To find out more about 'From Penguins to Pandas' and 'Giants' outreach programmes, contact: Sandie Robb, Senior Education Officer, RZSS—srobb@rzss.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Iain Valentine Director of Giant Panda Project and Strategic Innovations, RZSS

Further Information and resources

Websites:

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

<http://www.rzss.org.uk/conservation-programmes/projects/current-projects/china-uk-giant-panda-partnership>

Edinburgh Zoo Panda Cam

<http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/panda-cam/?camID=2457>

China Wildlife Conservation Association

<http://en.cwca.org.cn/article/index.asp>

Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

www.panda.org.cn

Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/ciss>

Giant Panda Zoo

<http://www.giantpandazoo.com>

Scotland China Education Network

<http://www.scen.info/>

Arkive

<http://www.arkive.org>

International Union for Conservation of Nature

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Books:

Mengqi, Zhou. *Panda-Back from the Brink*. Sichuan Fine Arts Publishing, 2010