

THE ROYAL  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF SCOTLAND



OWNERS OF EDINBURGH ZOO  
& HIGHLAND WILDLIFE PARK  
REGISTERED CHARITY No. SC004064

# Giants

## Fact Files (Teachers Notes)

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**SCILT** Scotland's  
National Centre  
for Languages

**育** **SCEN**  
SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

# Giants Fact Files

Item	Fact
black & white giant panda mat	Black and white soft giant panda mat showing maximum length and height of a giant panda. 190cm length including tail; 180cm head and body, plus 10cm tail; 90cm height.
brown giant armadillo mat	Brown hard giant armadillo mat showing maximum length and height of a giant armadillo. 150cm length including tail; 100cm head and body, plus 50cm tail; 60cm height.
soft toy giant panda	The body covering of a giant panda is hair (or fur). The giant panda is a mammal and is classed as a bear.
hard plastic giant armadillo	The body covering of a giant armadillo is hard bony plates with hair on the underside. The giant armadillo is a mammal and is in the order of Xenarthra which includes anteaters, sloths and armadillos.
giant panda front paw	Giant pandas have 5 digits with claws. They have a kind of 'thumb' which is an oversized bone and they use this in addition to their 5 digits to grip their bamboo.
giant armadillo front foot	Giant armadillos have 5 digits with claws of varying size. The third digit is a very large claw measuring about 20cm. They use this to dig burrows and to dig into ant and termite mounds.
bamboo	Giant pandas mainly eat bamboo, it forms about 99% of their diet. They will also eat small mammals and birds when the opportunity arises.
ant	Giant armadillos mainly eat ants and termites. They may eat some other small animals if the opportunity arises.
baby giant panda	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 <i>delayed implantation</i> 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.
baby giant armadillo	Previous information on giant armadillos may state that they give birth to one or two young and it takes 120 days. Through RZSS research it has been found that a female usually gives birth to only one baby and the young is born after 150 days. The young don't have their bony plates to begin with but do have tough, leathery skin. Mum will feed the baby until they are about 6 months old. We don't know the size of a newly born giant armadillo but at 4 weeks, they are 35cm.

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Item	Fact
China map	China is home to an amazing number of species. It is the third or fourth largest country in the world depending on whether sea areas are included. It has a wide range of habitats - high mountains, vast plains, dry deserts, many different forests and grasslands.
South America map	South America is a continent with 12 independent countries and 3 major territories. The 12 countries are –Brazil, Columbia, Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Guyana, Suriname. French Guiana is a French territory, Galapagos Islands is an Ecuador territory and Falkland Islands is a UK territory. It has the largest tropical rainforest in the world - the Amazon and the largest wetlands area - the Pantanal.
China flag	The red colour of the flag symbolizes the communist revolution. The large star symbolizes the Communist Party and the smaller stars represent the people of China.
Brazil flag	Brazil's flag is a deep green banner with a yellow diamond enclosing a night-blue, star-studded southern hemisphere sky. A banner across the sky reads, "ORDEM E PROGRESSO," which means "order and progress" in Portuguese.
elephant	Elephants are the largest land mammals, although the Asian is smaller than the African. The Asian elephant can grow up to 6.4m in length and 3.2m in height.
giant anteater	The giant anteater is the largest of the anteaters. It can grow up to 2m in length. They have a long, sticky tongue, which can measure up to 50 centimetres!
tiger	The Amur tiger is the largest tiger in the world. Their coat has a distinctive reddish-orange to yellow-ochre with a white belly and black stripe markings.
jaguar	The jaguar is the biggest cat in South America. Their coat consists of large black rosettes, mostly enclosing dark spots, set against golden brown to yellow fur, which pales to white on the cheeks, throat and underside.

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Item	Fact
Chinese cobra	One of the most poisonous snakes in China. The venom from one bite is enough to kill 10 people and they can spit the venom up to 2 metres. It can grow up to 1.5m.
blue poison dart frog	The blue poison dart frog can grow up to 6cm. Even though small in size, it's poison can paralyse or kill potential predators such as snakes and large spiders.
Chinese softshell turtle	They are called 'softshell' because the carapace doesn't have scales. The carapace is leathery and soft, especially at the sides.
giant South American turtle	The largest river turtle in South America. It can reach lengths of 1m.
Bactrian camel	The Bactrian camel has two humps unlike the one hump of the dromedary camels. They also grow a thick woolly coat in winter. Their humps store fat, not water, to allow them to go for long a time without food.
llama	Llamas belong to the camel family. The llama and the alpaca are domesticated forms of the guanaco and vicuna. The llama is generally used as a pack animal and the alpaca is raised for its wool.
snow leopard	Snow leopards are found between 3000 and 4500 metres in the mountains. They have long thick hair and long thick tails which are wrapped around the body and face to keep warm.
green billed toucan	The green billed is one of the smallest species of toucan with the toco being the largest. Although a toucan's bill is very large, it is very light and it helps them reach food on branches that are too small to support their weight.
giant salamander	The giant salamander can grow up to 1.8m in length, the largest salamander in the world. The eyes are tiny, with no eyelids and are on top of a broad flat head. The giant salamander is found in cold, fast running mountain streams, lakes and rivers. They can lay up to 500 eggs at a time. The tadpoles are only 3cm long when they hatch.
pirarucu fish	The pirarucu is one of the largest freshwater fishes in the world. It can grow up to 3m long. It has a tongue with sharp, bony teeth and also has teeth on the roof of its mouth.

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Item	Fact
Chinese alligator	One of the smallest of the crocodile family. It is found in the Yangtze river but it is now critically endangered.
yacare caiman	There are thousands of yacare caiman in the Pantanal. The yacare are known for eating piranhas. Caiman are very similar to alligators.
silk scarf	The Chinese found a way to make silk from the silk thread of the cocoons of the <i>Bombyx Mori</i> caterpillars. Silk fabric was first developed as early as 3,500BC.
Andean hat	<p>Chullo is the name given to an Andean style of hat with earflaps, usually made from vicuna, alpaca or llama wool. Alpaca wool has qualities that help insulate its wearer from the harsh elements in the Andean Mountain region.</p> <p>Chullos have been used in the Andean Mountain region by indigenous peoples for thousands of years, wearing different types and colours has a significance among the Andean natives.</p>
Great Wall of China	The Great Wall of China is said to be about 6,000km long, although there is some controversy as to its length. The wall rises to 16m at its highest and is about 7m wide. It was built from the 3rd century to the 17th century to protect various dynasties by raids.
Inca Temple	<p>About 100 years ago, archaeologists made an incredible find, high in the Andes Mountains. They found an entire city that had not been destroyed by the Spanish invaders. This forgotten city is named Machu Picchu. It is a huge tourist attraction in Peru today.</p> <p>Archaeologists found ruins of temples, palaces, fortresses, pottery, statues, and all kinds of artefacts. This find told archaeologists and scientists a great deal about the ancient Inca civilization. The Inca Empire is believed to have started around 1200 and lasted until 1572 when the Spanish conquered the last of the strongholds.</p>
kite	It is claimed that in the 5th century a Chinese man created a wooden bird that remained flying in the air for three days. This was the first kite. Most of the Chinese kites have elaborate designs and symbolic meaning. The kite is said to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck. It is also encouraged in modern times as it is a healthy pastime.
football	Although there is evidence from as early as 3rd century BC of a game that resembles football being played in China, South America is now famous for its excellent football players.

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Item	Fact
Chinese dress	Styles have changed over many years but the basic features of the Chinese dress or suit is a high cross-collar, wrapping over at the neck and in decorative silk.
poncho	The poncho is an outer garment made from a woollen material. The traditional poncho is said to have come from a Peruvian, pre-Inca Culture around 500 BC. Now it is associated with countries throughout South America.
Chinese story book	The main language of China is Mandarin Chinese.
Spanish story book	Spanish is spoken throughout South America except in Brazil where the language is Portuguese.
chopsticks	Chopsticks date back about 3000 years. However the Chinese also invented the fork and bone forks date back to about 4000 years ago - they pre-date the chopsticks.
zarabatana	The zarabatana is the name given to a South American blowgun. The darts are usually dipped with the poison from poison dart frogs.
Chinese tea	The Chinese have a long history of drinking tea as the drink originated from China.
Columbia coffee	Columbian coffee is regarded as one of the best in the world. Buying coffee with the FAIRTRADE logo on it will ensure it is from a carefully managed and sustainable coffee producer.
<b>Additional Chinese items</b> Chinese calligraphy brush	Chinese calligraphy is the art of drawing the Chinese characters. Special brushes and inks are used.
<b>Additional Chinese items</b> Chinese hanging knot decoration	A decorative art of making items by knotting like macramé. The art dates back to prehistoric times.

# Giants P3-P4 Habitat Game

Habitat	Facts
mountain habitat	Giant pandas live in the mountainous areas of Sichuan, Gansu and Shanxi. They used to live all over south eastern China but are now restricted to 6 small isolated pockets of forest.
wetlands habitat	Giant armadillos live Columbia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Bolivia, southern Brazil and northern Argentina. They will live in wetlands, forest, scrubland and grassland.
<b>Habitat Board Game</b>	
Mountains	<p>Giant panda - the following cards should have been placed on the mountain habitat board:</p> <p>hair/fur; mammal; live birth; height/length = 180cm;            diet = bamboo; continent = Asia; country = China;            threat = habitat loss</p>
Wetlands	<p>Giant armadillo - the following cards should have been placed on the wetlands habitat board:</p> <p>bony plates - (could also have had hair/fur); mammal; live birth;            height/length = 100cm (without tail); diet = ants;            continent = South America;            country = Brazil (and Columbia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Bolivia,            northern Argentina); threat = overhunting, habitat loss</p>