



# Giant Pandas

Reading Worksheet — Level C | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)

Giant pandas are one of the world's most **beloved** animals. They are known for their black and white fur and their love of eating **bamboo**. Pandas live in the mountain forests of China. They are very rare, which makes them a symbol of **conservation** around the world.

Giant pandas eat bamboo for up to 14 hours every day. A panda needs to eat 12 to 38 kilograms of bamboo daily because bamboo is not very **nutritious**. They have a special thumb-like bone in their wrist that helps them **grip** bamboo stalks. Even though they are bears, pandas rarely eat meat.

Baby pandas are incredibly small at birth. A newborn panda weighs only about 100 grams — about the size of a stick of butter! Baby pandas are pink, hairless, and **helpless** at first. The mother panda is 900 times heavier than her cub. She holds the baby very carefully and takes care of it for over a year.

Giant pandas are **endangered**. For many years, their population dropped because people cut down bamboo forests for farmland. Today, there are about 1,800 giant pandas living in the wild. China has created more than 60 nature **reserves** to protect pandas and their habitat. Thanks to these efforts, pandas have moved from "endangered" to "vulnerable" on the conservation list.

Giant pandas are very important to China. They are used as **ambassadors** when China wants to build friendly relations with other countries. This is sometimes called "panda diplomacy." Pandas live in zoos around the world, and people love to visit them. They remind us how important it is to protect wild animals and their homes.

## A. Vocabulary

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|----------------------|--|
| 1. beloved ____      | a. unable to take care of oneself                      |
| 2. bamboo ____       | b. protected areas set aside for wildlife              |
| 3. conservation ____ | c. at some risk, but not immediately in danger         |
| 4. nutritious ____   | d. a tall, fast-growing grass with hollow stems        |
| 5. grip ____         | e. protecting animals and nature from harm             |
| 6. helpless ____     | f. providing the body with what it needs to be healthy |
| 7. endangered ____   | g. to hold something firmly                            |
| 8. reserves ____     | h. at risk of dying out completely                     |
| 9. ambassadors ____  | i. people or animals that represent their country      |
| 10. vulnerable ____  | j. loved very much by many people                      |

## B. True or False

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- \_\_\_ 1. Giant pandas are known for their black and white fur.
- \_\_\_ 2. Pandas eat bamboo for about 5 hours per day.
- \_\_\_ 3. Bamboo is very nutritious for pandas.
- \_\_\_ 4. Baby pandas are very large at birth.
- \_\_\_ 5. The mother panda is 900 times heavier than her cub.
- \_\_\_ 6. Giant pandas are now completely safe from extinction.
- \_\_\_ 7. China has created over 60 nature reserves for pandas.
- \_\_\_ 8. Pandas are sometimes called ambassadors of China.
- \_\_\_ 9. Giant pandas eat meat as their main food.
- \_\_\_ 10. Pandas have moved from endangered to vulnerable status.

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** beloved, bamboo, conservation, grip, helpless, endangered, reserves, ambassadors

- 1. Giant pandas are one of the world's most \_\_\_\_\_ animals.
- 2. Pandas eat \_\_\_\_\_ for up to 14 hours every day.
- 3. Pandas are a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ around the world.
- 4. Baby pandas are pink, hairless, and \_\_\_\_\_ at birth.
- 5. China has created over 60 nature \_\_\_\_\_ to protect pandas.



## D. Comprehension Questions

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- 1. Why do pandas need to eat so much bamboo each day?
- 2. What has China done to help protect giant pandas?
- 3. What is 'panda diplomacy'?

## E. Discussion Questions

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- 1. Why do you think people care so much about saving giant pandas?
- 2. What can ordinary people do to help protect endangered animals?

# Answer Key

## Giant Pandas — Level C

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**A. Vocabulary:** 1-j, 2-d, 3-e, 4-f, 5-g, 6-a, 7-h, 8-b, 9-i, 10-c

**B. True/False:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F, 10-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-beloved, 2-bamboo, 3-conservation, 4-helpless, 5-reserves

**D. Comprehension:**

1. Because bamboo is not very nutritious, they need a lot of it
2. Created 60+ nature reserves and protected panda habitat
3. Using pandas as gifts to other countries to build friendly relations