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Ponder the Panda

What's black and white and loved by kids all over the world? Pandas, of course! Read on to learn about these gentle creatures.

Pandas in Peril

Can you imagine a world without pandas? Only about 1,800 giant pandas live in the wild today. They are in danger of becoming extinct—gone forever.

Giant pandas live in the Sichuan mountains of southwest China, where they feed on bamboo.

Pandas are losing their habitat. Giant pandas need forests with lots of bamboo to survive. These forests are rapidly disappearing as humans use them to meet their needs.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know changes in the environment can be detrimental to organisms.

Pandas Munching

Giant pandas need to eat a lot of food every day. They eat day and night, constantly wandering through the forest eating and eating. Add up the numbers along the correct path of the maze to find out how many pounds of food one giant panda can eat in a day.

While bamboo makes up most of a giant panda's diet, pandas sometimes eat small animals. Because of this small amount of meat eating, giant pandas are classified as carnivores.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums to 30.

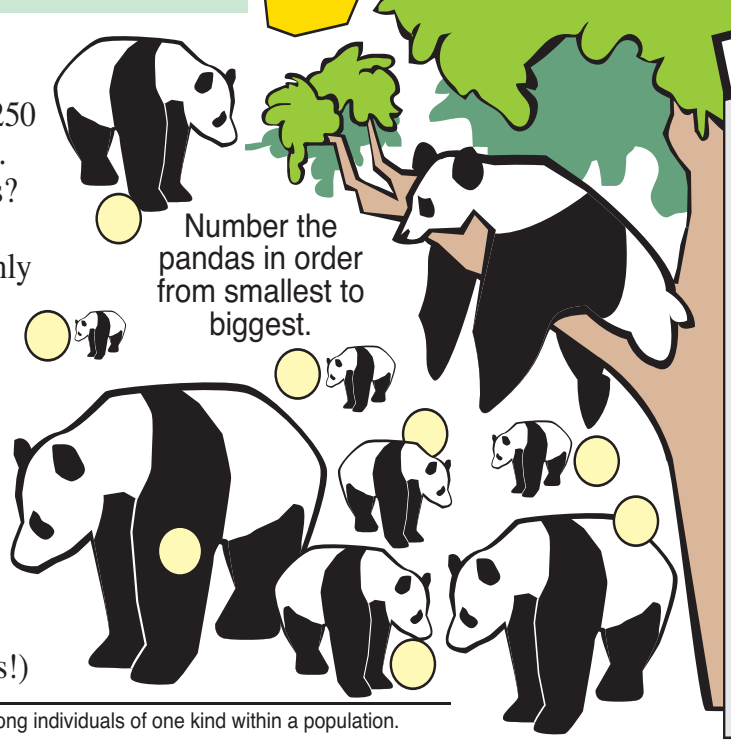
Pandas: Big and Small

The largest giant pandas can grow to be about 250 pounds. Ask five friends how much they weigh. Add up their weights. Does it equal 250 pounds?

Baby pandas are itty-bitty bears. They weigh only 4 to 6 ounces at birth (114-170 grams).

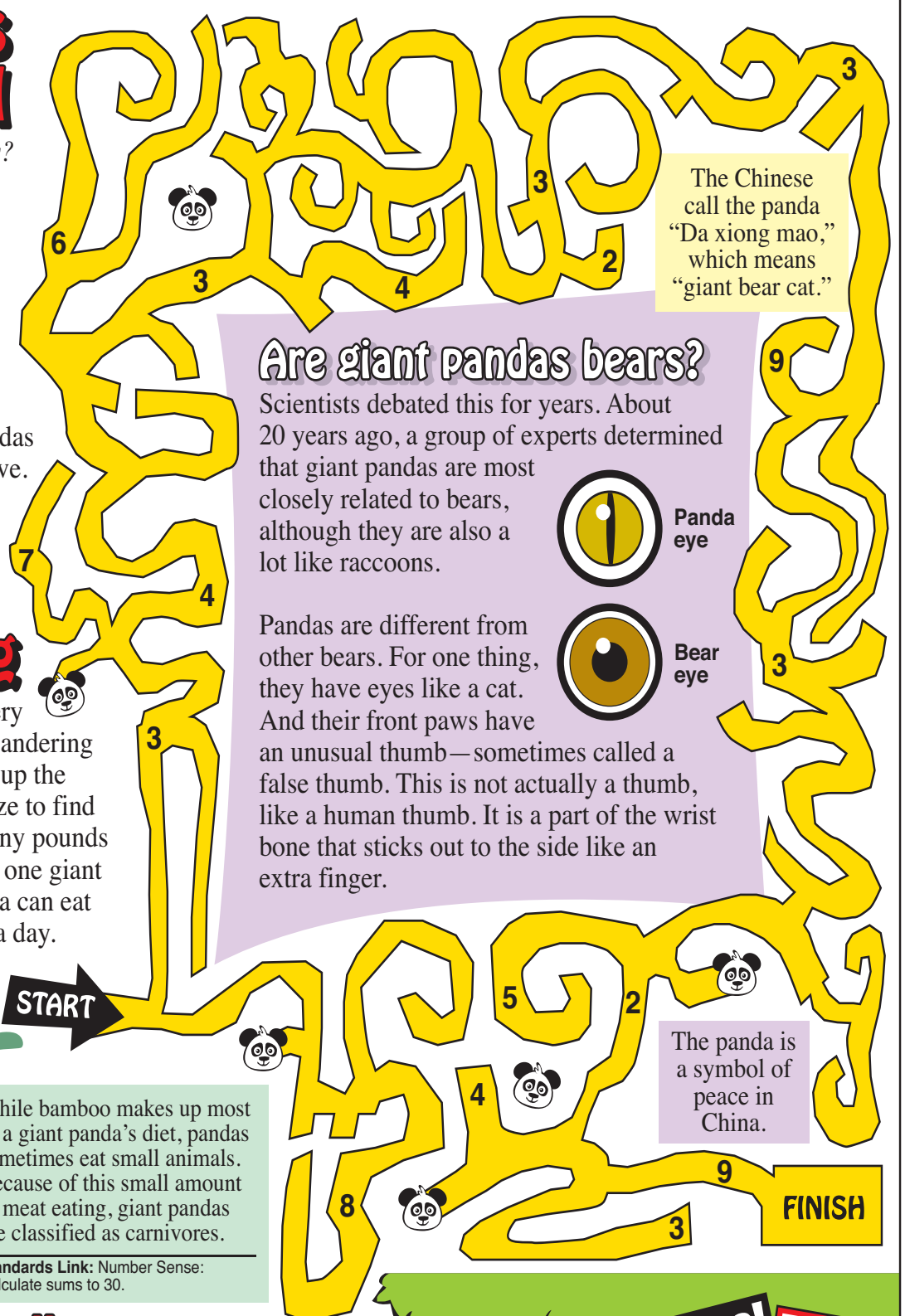
Did you know?

A mother panda is about 800 times heavier than her baby. (If a human mother with a 7-pound baby weighed 800 times more, she would weigh 5,600 pounds. That's nearly 3 tons!)



Number the pandas in order from smallest to biggest.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know there is a variation among individuals of one kind within a population.



The Chinese call the panda "Da xiong mao," which means "giant bear cat."

The panda is a symbol of peace in China.

Are giant pandas bears?

Scientists debated this for years. About 20 years ago, a group of experts determined that giant pandas are most closely related to bears, although they are also a lot like raccoons.

Panda eye

Bear eye

Pandas are different from other bears. For one thing, they have eyes like a cat. And their front paws have an unusual thumb—sometimes called a false thumb. This is not actually a thumb, like a human thumb. It is a part of the wrist bone that sticks out to the side like an extra finger.

Extra! Extra!

Invent a Creature

Look through the newspaper and cut out parts of different animals to create a new animal. Give your creature a name. Describe where your animal lives and what it eats.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write brief expository descriptions.

Where to See Pandas

About 300 giant pandas live in zoos and research centers worldwide. Threatened with extinction, these captive breeding programs are seen as hope for the giant panda's survival.

All giant pandas and their cubs are on loan from China. Agreements between these zoos and the Chinese conservation organizations are helping to preserve these endangered species.

Do the math to find out the number of giant pandas in each of these zoos in America and Canada:

Smithsonian National Zoo, Washington D.C.

14+8-18 = ____

Memphis Zoo

22-13-7 = ____

San Diego Zoo

9+8-14 = ____

Toronto Zoo

17+23-38 = ____

Zoo Atlanta

38-19-15 = ____

Several of these zoos have Panda Cams.

Kid Scoo-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word BEARS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

B	E	A	R	S
	B			
		B		
			B	
				B

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

W L F D

Because of its distinctive features and its status as endangered, the giant panda was chosen by the world's largest conservation organization as a symbol of conservation.

Use these four missing letters to fill in the blanks to discover the name of the organization.

_ OR _ _
_ I _ _ I _ E _ UN _

Double Double Word Search

PANDA
CHINA
MOTHER
HUMAN
BABY
GIANT
BAMBOO
CAT
BLACK
WHITE
BEARS
CREATURE
ZOOS
EYE
FOOD

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

E	Y	E	O	C	S	B	E	T	Y
Y	G	T	O	A	J	R	Z	B	T
Z	I	I	M	E	U	W	A	O	A
A	A	H	P	T	O	B	O	E	S
N	N	W	A	O	O	B	M	A	B
I	T	E	N	S	N	Z	O	O	S
H	R	T	D	M	O	T	H	E	R
C	O	N	A	M	U	H	P	Z	Y
D	O	O	F	C	K	C	A	L	B

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop® VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
STATUS

The noun **status** means the position or rank of a person or thing.

Sarah lost her **status** as leading goal scorer when she broke her leg.

Try to use the word **status** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

What's black and white and red all over?

Look at one page of today's newspaper and circle in red all the words you know that begin with the letter **P**.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

What do you get when you cross a teddy bear with a skunk?

ANSWER: Winnie the pew!

Write On!

The Cutest Animal in the World

Which animal do you think is the cutest animal in the world? Why? Write a paragraph to convince other children of your opinion.