

Endangered Animals ~ The Giant Panda

The giant panda is one of the most endangered animals in the world. It lives in China, it's a mammal and it's a member of the bear family. An adult panda can weigh up to 150 kilogrammes and it can grow to 1.5 metres tall. A panda is a very good climber and it lives in the forest. It eats bamboo, a plant that grows in the forests of China. It eats around ten kilogrammes of bamboo a day, and spends about 12 hours a day eating!

In the wild, the panda can live for about 20 years, but it is in danger of becoming extinct. There are only about 1,000 pandas left in the wild. Unfortunately, farmers are cutting down the bamboo forests to build houses for China's large population, and some people also hunt the panda for its fur.



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|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------------------------|
| 1 The panda is a member of the | a cat | b dog | c bear | family. |
| 2 It can weigh up to | a 150 | b 10 | c 12 | kilogrammes. |
| 3 It lives in a | a sea | b forest | c jungle | habitat. |
| 4 It eats bamboo and spends about | a 24 | b 10 | c 12 | hours a day eating! |
| 5 It can live for around | a 100 | b 20 | c 10 | years in the wild. |
| 6 There are only about | a 1,000 | b 150 | c 2,000 | pandas left in the wild. |

17 Read again and answer the questions.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Which country does the giant panda live in? | 2 How tall can the giant panda grow? |
| 3 What is the giant panda's favourite food? | 4 Why is the panda endangered? |

18 Find out the following information about another endangered animal.

19 Write about the endangered animal in Activity 18.

- 1 Where does it live?
- 2 What is its natural habitat?
- 3 What kind of animal is it?
- 4 What does it look like?
- 5 How big/tall/heavy/long is it?
- 6 Why is it an endangered animal?

The Javan rhino is an endangered animal. It lives in a jungle habitat in Indonesia, in Asia. It's a mammal...

VALUES

 Help protect animals in the wild.

16 Look again at the text in Activity 14. In which paragraph of the text are the questions answered?

- 1 How big is the animal and what does it look like? Paragraph one
- 2 How many animals are left? _____
- 3 What does the animal eat? _____
- 4 What is being done to protect this animal? _____
- 5 Where does the animal live? _____
- 6 Why is the animal endangered? _____

17 You're going to write a text like the one in Activity 14 about the blue whale. Read the fact file. In which paragraph will you put the information in your text?

Blue whale fact file

- ¹ lives in cold, deep oceans worldwide
- ² largest animal in the world, female bigger than male, average whale 21 metres long and 90 tonnes
- ³ long blue-grey body, fins and a tail
- ⁴ eats krill, a type of fish – during the summer feeding months a whale eats 40 million krill a day
- ⁵ endangered because they were hunted during 20th century – there are 15,000 blue whales today and there used to be 300,000
- ⁶ threats today: climate change, habitat loss, poison in the sea, also they can be hit by ships or get caught up in fishing equipment
- ⁷ whale hunting is now illegal and they are protected by the International Whaling Commission – they help if a whale is washed ashore

Which paragraph?
Paragraph one

18 Write a text about the blue whale using the information from the fact file in Activity 17. Use three paragraphs like in the text in Activity 14.
