

SAVING GIANT PANDAS

An Activity Book

This book belongs to

Today's date

MEET THE GIANT PANDAS!

Fill in this journal to stay current with our giant pandas as they grow and change! You'll find some information posted at the Fujifilm Giant Panda Habitat (or ask one of our giant panda volunteers or keepers).

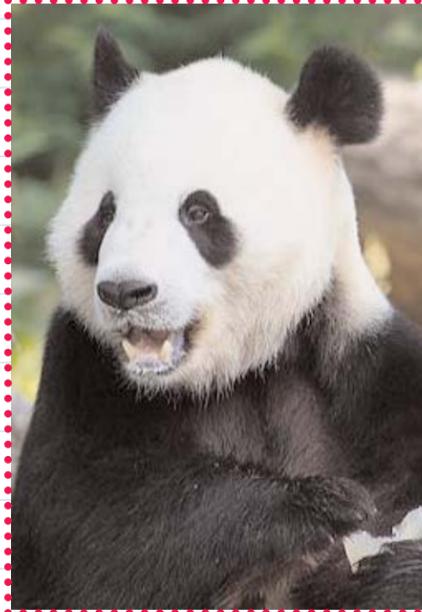


MEI XIANG

(may sh-ONG)

Our female giant panda, Mei Xiang ("beautiful fragrance"), was born July 22, 1998 in China at the Wolong Giant Panda Research and Breeding Center. Mei Xiang came to the National Zoo on December 6, 2000.

Today, she is _____ years old, and weighs _____ pounds.



TIAN TIAN

(t-YEN t-YEN)

Our male giant panda, Tian Tian ("more and more"), was born August 27, 1997 at the Wolong Giant Panda Research and Breeding Center in China. He also arrived at the National Zoo on December 6, 2000

Today, he is _____ years old, and weighs _____ pounds.



IT'S A BOY!

Mei Xiang gave birth to her first cub, a male, on July 9, 2005, after an artificial insemination by Zoo scientists. Tian Tian is the cub's father.

Today, he is _____ old, and weighs _____ pounds.

FAQs



When did giant pandas first arrive at the National Zoo?

The National Zoo has been a leader in giant panda conservation since 1972, when the giant pandas Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing arrived. They became international "celebrities" and symbols for endangered animals worldwide.

Are giant pandas bears?

Good question—scientists debated this for many years. National Zoo scientists and collaborators used DNA testing to determine that giant pandas are most closely related to bears, although they share many physical traits with raccoons.

How much do giant pandas eat?

A giant panda eats about 40 pounds (18 kg) of bamboo per day. The average person eats about five pounds (2.3 kg) of food per day.



Why are giant pandas endangered?

Like many other animals, they are losing their habitat. Giant pandas need forests with lots of bamboo to survive. These bamboo forests are rapidly disappearing as people use them to meet their needs.



How many giant pandas are left in the wild?

Biologists estimate there are about 1,600 left in the wild. More accurate counting methods have actually increased the estimated number.



What can the Zoo do to help?

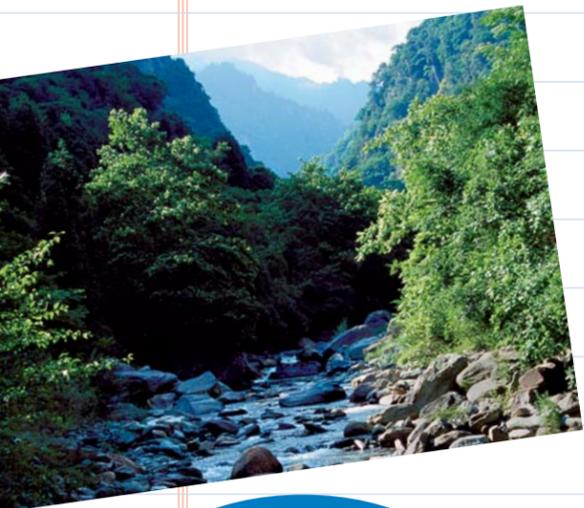
Learn more about them! The more we know about giant pandas, the better equipped we are to save them. The National Zoo is adding to the world's understanding of giant pandas through behavioral studies, field ecology, and finding ways to breed more of these rare animals. We also contribute \$1 million a year to the China Wildlife Conservation Association while the pandas live here at the Zoo.



How did the Zoo help Mei Xiang give birth to her first cub?

We used our research in reproduction, animal care, and veterinary medicine to help Mei Xiang conceive through artificial insemination. We carefully monitored her pregnancy and she gave birth 120 days later.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



Watching for a reason

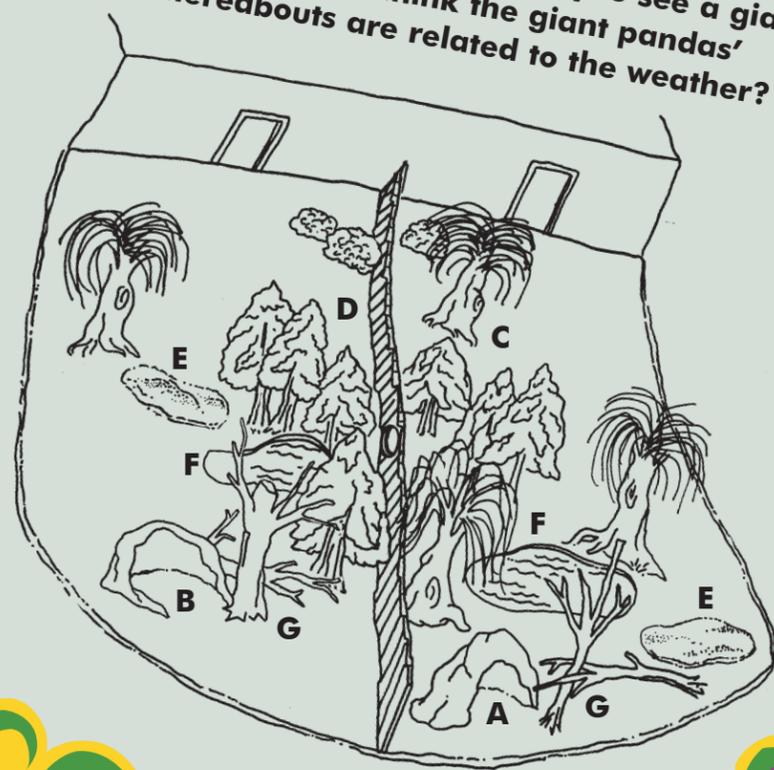
Watching giant pandas is fun *and* important. Daily observations are critical for meeting the giant pandas' needs, and help us provide the best exhibit possible. To keep our giant pandas comfortable throughout Washington, D.C.'s sizzling summers, we've put special cooled areas in their outdoor habitats. Where would you choose to be on a hot day?

Where are the giant pandas?

- A Cold-air den
- B Chilled-rock den
- C Fog grove
- D Mist grove
- E Sand bath
- F Pool
- G Climbing tree

Today's weather is:

X marks the spot
On the map, mark where you are, and then mark the spots where you see a giant panda. Do you think the giant pandas' whereabouts are related to the weather?



Walkway

What are they doing?

Chances are you'll see the giant pandas eating or resting during your visit—wild giant pandas spend about half their day eating bamboo, and the other half resting. (They often lean against something when they rest or eat.) But watch for other activities, such as scent-marking (when a giant panda rubs its rear-end on a tree or rock). **Check the boxes next to the activities that you see the giant pandas doing today.**

Eating

Playing

Resting

Climbing

Walking

Scent-marking

What else do you see?



Who's who?

Draw Tian Tian, Mei Xiang, in the space to the right.

It's very hard to tell giant pandas apart! Look below for some hints.

HINTS

Mei Xiang (may sh-ONG)

- black "stockings"
- black band across her shoulders is wider in the middle
- pale black bar across the bridge of her nose

Tian Tian (t-YEN t-YEN)

- black "knee socks"
- black band across his shoulders gets narrow in the middle
- two black dots across the bridge of his nose

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

You can visit all of these animals here at the Zoo. **Can you match each animal to where it lives in the wild?**



Cuban crocodile

Does how we feel affect what animals we try to save?

Yes! But what about animals that don't have human baby-like potbellies, large, round heads, and big-looking eyes? Animals all over the world are disappearing to make way for people and their needs. Cute or not, they need our help, too.



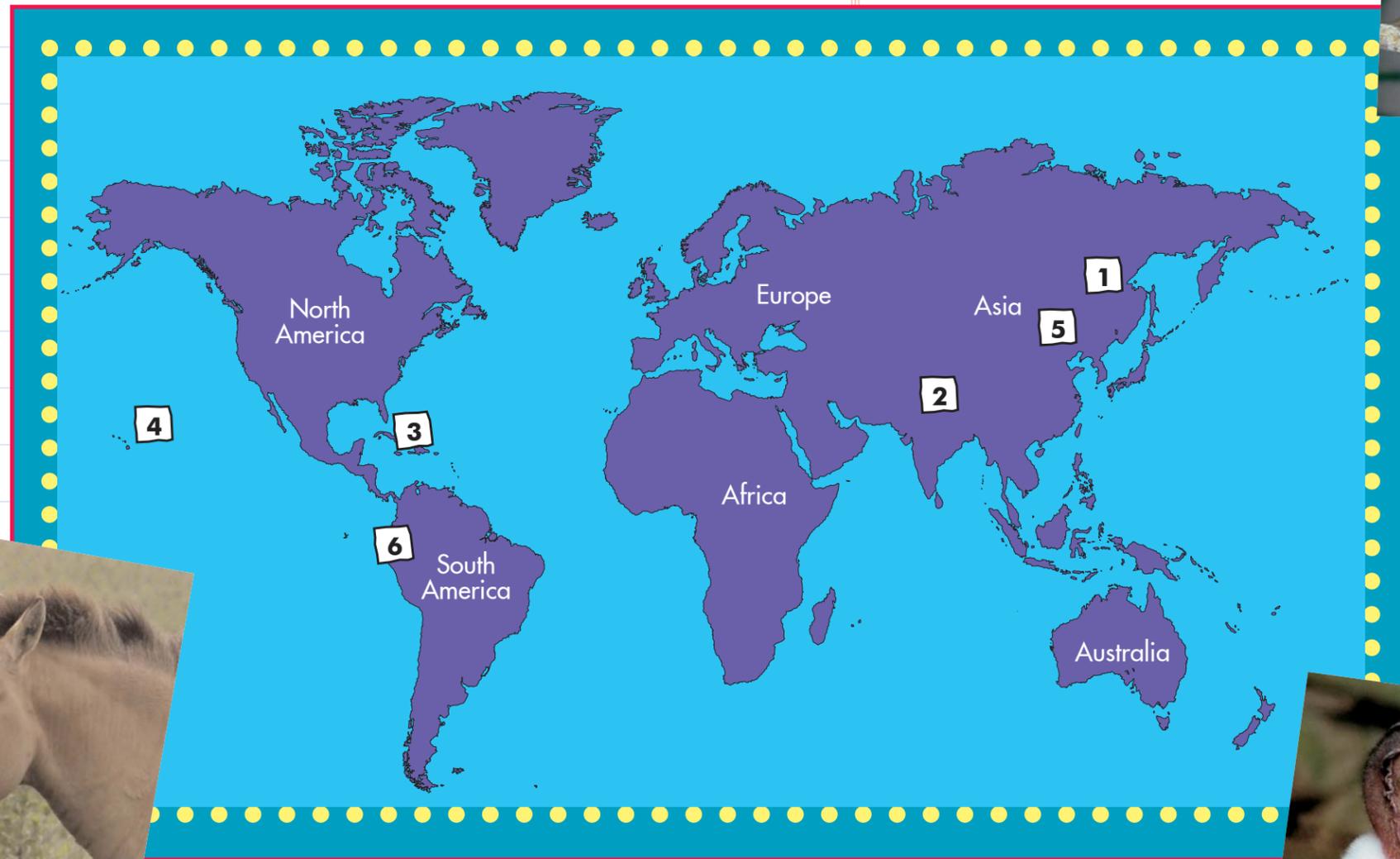
Hawaiian thrush



Giant panda

Are giant pandas as friendly as they look?

No! Giant pandas, like all zoo animals, can be dangerous to people. Even among themselves, giant pandas are not "cuddly"—they mostly prefer to be alone.



Pygmy hippo

What's your favorite animal? Is it the giant panda? In animal popularity polls, giant pandas usually finish at or near the top. Why? Researchers suggest that giant pandas have a lot of features that remind us of our own babies—making them quite appealing! **What about these other animals? Are their features as appealing? Why or why not?**



Przewalski's horse



Andean condor



**MEI-ZIANG
AND
TIAN-TIAN**



TRACKING GIANT PANDAS

Take an adventure into the forests of China in search of giant pandas.

First read the field notes to find out what lives in these forests. Then look at the numbered clues on the map. Use the animal signs to identify what's there, like field scientists do. **Write the clue number next to the correct animal field note. Can you find all three giant panda clues? What other animal signs can you find?**

Start here



Asiatic black bear
Makes a resting spot on the ground out of leaves.



Takin
Related to cows; lives in herds.



Golden monkey
Travels in large groups through leafy treetops, calling when alarmed.



Asiatic wild dog
Eats deer and takin; droppings contain hair.



Golden pheasant
Gives early morning calls.



Red panda
Chews bamboo well; small, smooth, egg-shaped droppings.



Musk deer
Droppings are small and round.



Giant panda

- Peels bamboo before eating, scattering bits all around.
- Hardly digests food, so large, potato-shaped droppings contain bamboo pieces.
- Marks trees by scratching bark and scent-marking (leaving a dark, sticky substance).



1 Call from the bushes



2 Tree with scratches and a dark smear



3 Hairy droppings



4 Small oval droppings



8 Leafy nest on the ground



9 Tiny round droppings



10 Large oval droppings with bamboo bits



5 Bamboo stumps and bits



7 Loud calls and rustling leaves



6 Barnyard smell and thumping hooves

Good tracking! Lots of animals share a giant panda's home!

SAVING GIANT PANDAS

It's not just black and white.

Saving giant pandas means finding a way for pandas and people to share the forest. Read the list of activities that people do to make a living in and around giant panda habitat.

Find each activity in the drawing by circling the appropriate picture. Then put a (+) or a (-) in the box next to the activity if you think what people are doing helps or hurts giant pandas' chances for survival. Check your answers on the back!

- Villagers lead visitors through the forest to enjoy the beauty of nature. This activity brings much needed money into the village and reserve.
- Villagers keep bees and sell the honey as a way to make a living.
- Forests are cut down for wood products and fuel.
- Scientists study giant pandas to learn more about what they need to survive and bring resources and training to local people.
- Mining companies strip hillsides for limestone and metals like iron and copper.
- Villagers grow and sell mushrooms instead of overpicking wild mushrooms.
- Villagers learn about the importance of saving giant pandas and the other animals that live in giant panda habitats.
- Musk deer traps, set by hunters, can accidentally catch giant pandas.
- Local people work as guards to protect the reserve from illegal loggers, poachers, and farmers who allow animals to overgraze.
- Greenways, mapped out by researchers, link isolated populations of giant pandas.
- Roads and hotels are built to bring large numbers of tourists to the reserve.



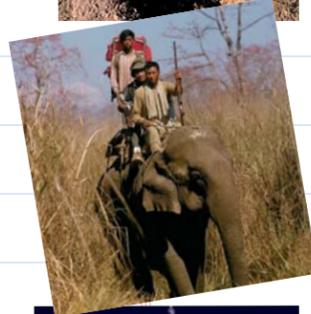
MAKING PROGRESS

Saving endangered species means learning about how animals live and breed, and then figuring out ways to help them get what they need to survive. National Zoo biologists have had some inspiring successes in the effort to save endangered species.

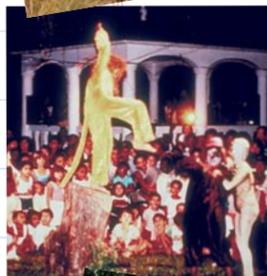
Can you match the animal with the conservation action used to save it?



A. Comeback kits!
National Zoo biologists developed ways to breed this rare predator in zoos. Can you find which animal born at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center is now being reintroduced into the North American prairie?



B. The ultimate all-terrain vehicle.
National Zoo experts have trained researchers and wildlife managers all across the globe how to track wild animals with radio-collars. What big, striped predator do you think these researchers are tracking from elephant back?



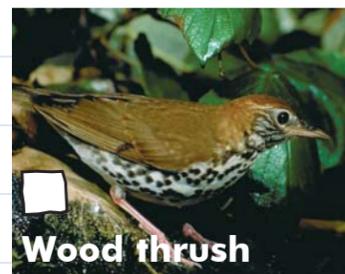
C. Dancing for conservation.
As part of their reintroduction effort, National Zoo biologists worked with local educators to spread the word that these small, orange primates were disappearing from the rainforest. What animal are these people celebrating?



D. This coffee is for the birds!
National Zoo biologists are helping local farmers explore how to grow coffee without cutting down the rainforest. Which of these animals can you help out by buying only shade-grown coffee?



Tiger



Wood thrush



Black-footed ferret



Golden lion tamarin

MAKE A BETTER WORLD!

Unscramble the words in each sentence. If you need a hint, look at the words in the border. Then use the numbered letters from each word to find an important message about saving wildlife and protecting our planet!

wildlife **packaging** **containers** **fertilizers** **birds** **money** **car** **bike** **volunteer** **learned** **recycle**

Now that I've **(erandle)** 4 7 R N about saving giant pandas, I'm going to do my part to make a clean and healthy planet for **(filedilw)** 1 I L 16 18 and people. I'll begin at home—instead of throwing things away, I'll **(clercey)** 2 23 everything I can. I'll plant a garden with plants and flowers that are good for butterflies and **(sidrb)** 19 14 and be careful with the pesticides and **(treesrizil)** 17 20 R T I use. When I go out, I'll use the **(cra)** 22 10 less by riding my **(ekib)** B 11, walking, or taking public transportation. When I'm shopping, I'll pick things with the least amount of **(gcaakpign)** P 13, and that are made from recycled materials. To reduce the amount of stuff I throw away, I'll use refillable **(rainsetcno)** 6 O N 3 15 when I pack my lunch. Because conservation takes **(yonme)** 9 8 Y, and effort, I'll join my favorite group like FONZ and **(luteronev)** V 5 21 12 at places like the National Zoo.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 !

VISIT OTHER PARTS OF THE ZOO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Visit the Zoo

Here you can connect with animals and learn about our efforts to protect them. When you park at the Zoo, buy food, or shop at a National Zoo Store, you help support Zoo renewal, conservation, and animal programs.

Upgrade your FONZ Membership

Become a part of a special group that offers significant support to the Zoo. In appreciation we offer many exclusive benefits.

Adopt a Species

Help care for the thousands of animals at the Zoo. Adopt packages make great gifts.

Get a FONZ Credit Card

Use a FONZ credit card and a percentage of your net purchases is donated to National Zoo animal programs. Call 1-866-GET-MBNA and mention priority code CH76.

Make a Donation

We are conducting a ten-year campaign to renew the Zoo and your donations help renovate some of the Zoo's oldest exhibits, build new ones, and fund research.

Volunteer at the Zoo

FONZ volunteers offer invaluable support to the Zoo. Help with education programs, exhibit interpretation, animal behavior watches, special events, and more.

Give a Gift Membership

Share the fun! Your friends and family will enjoy everything from free parking to discounts on event tickets, not to mention the joy of supporting local and international conservation efforts.

Plan a Gift

Plan for your future and the future of wildlife. You can designate FONZ as the beneficiary of your life insurance or IRA, make a bequest in your will, or establish a charitable trust or charitable gift annuity.

Questions? Visit www.nationalzoo.org.



PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION EDUCATION

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Answer Key

pp 5-6: 1. giant panda; 2. Przewalski's horse 3. Cuban crocodile; 4. Hawaiian thrush;
5. pygmy hippo; 6. Andean condor.

pp 9-10: 1. golden pheasant; 2. giant panda; 3. Asiatic wild dog; 4. red panda; 5. giant panda;
6. takin; 7. golden monkey; 8. Asiatic black bear; 9. musk deer; 10. giant panda

pp 11-12: +, +, -, +, -, +, +, -, +, +, ? (we told you saving giant pandas wasn't just black and white!)

p13: A. black-footed ferret; B. tiger; C. golden lion tamarin; D. wood thrush

p14: learned, wildlife, recycle, birds, fertilizers, car, bike, packaging, containers, money, volunteer,
we all can make a difference.