ANIMAL LEARNING CENTER · NOT CURRENTLY AT THE ZOO

GIANT PANDA

Ailuropoda melanoleuca

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A giant panda eats bamboo.

Its body

A panda is a bear.
It has black and white fur.
A wrist bone works like a thumb.
It helps hold **bamboo**.

Its home (habitat)

Pandas live in China.
They live high in the mountains.
People work to help them.



Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats almost all bamboo.
It eats 10 to 16 hours a day!

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby panda is a **cub**.
A new cub is pink.
It is as small as a stick of butter.
It is born in a **den**.

Fun facts

It eats 70 to 100 pounds a day!

Words to know

bamboo: a tall plant with hard stems
cub: a baby panda
den: a safe place in a log or cave

Talk about it

1. What does a panda eat most?
2. How does its wrist bone help?
3. How big is a new cub?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/giant-panda/ · **Sources:** Animal Diversity Web; WWF; IUCN Red List (2016).
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Valentin on Unsplash

GIANT PANDA

Before and after you read

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PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

GRADES K–2

Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you read · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A panda is a kind of bear. **YES** **NO**
2. A panda eats mostly meat. **YES** **NO**
3. A new cub is very small. **YES** **NO**
4. Pandas live in Africa. **YES** **NO**

Look closely · with a partner

Look at the photo on page 1. Check each one you see.

- ☐ black ears
- ☐ bamboo
- ☐ black legs
- ☐ eye patches
- ☐ white fur
- ☐ nose

Where does it live? Find the dark part of the map, then circle.

Asia Africa Europe

After you read · 10 minutes

Draw a panda eating bamboo in the mountains.

Draw here

A panda has _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular giant panda sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no. Map answer: Asia.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/giant-panda/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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