

Panda Power!



World Almanac for Kids
Giant Panda.

Scientists put on their detective hats in search of giant pandas.

Scientists were on the case! They collected clues. The scientists saw paw prints in the mud and fur on the bark of trees. What were they doing? Counting giant pandas!

After four years, the detective work is done. During that time, scientists figured out how many pandas live in China. All wild giant pandas live in that country.

"Pandas are very hard to see in the wild," scientist Colby Loucks told *Weekly Reader*.

"They hide in the thick bamboo forests." That is why scientists used clues to do the count.

The result of the panda count was a surprise to scientists. They learned that hundreds more pandas exist than experts once thought! "We found pandas living in areas we didn't know had any," said Loucks.

Protecting Pandas

Although the news is good, pandas remain **endangered**. That means they are in danger of dying out.

Panda Fun Facts

- A Panda spends 14 hours a day eating up to 83 pounds of bamboo.
- A Newborn panda weighs 3 to 4 ounces. That is about the size a hamster.
- A panda's front paws have a wrist bone. The bone works like a thumb. The panda uses it to grasp bamboo.

The main threat to pandas is **habitat** loss. A habitat is a place in nature where an animal lives. Panda habitat is lost when people cut down parts of the forest for wood and farming.

Currently, China has more than 40 giant panda nature centers. People are not allowed to cut down trees there. Scientists want to create more nature centers to give pandas a better chance for survival.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why are pandas hard to see in the wild?

- A because they are the same color as the trees
- B because they hide among the bamboo trees
- C because most of them live in nature centers now
- D because they don't like being counted

2. What is one example of a problem and solution that are described in this article?

- A The problem is that baby pandas are too small, and the solution is to feed the baby pandas more.
- B The problem is that pandas are endangered, and the solution is to stop cutting down the trees where pandas live.
- C The problem is that scientists didn't know how many pandas there were in China, and the solution is to count the pandas.
- D The problem is that the pandas hide in the bamboo forests, and the solution is to cut down the bamboo trees.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A scientists will stop looking for pandas because they have found them all
- B more pandas will certainly be found in countries near China
- C there will definitely be more panda nature centers in China in the future
- D some day there may be no pandas left in the world at all

4. Read the following sentence: "A habitat is a place in nature where an animal lives."

In this sentence the word **nature** means

- A an animal's personality
- B the physical world
- C a large forest
- D a foreign country

5. This passage is mostly about

- A scientists working to count giant pandas
- B scientists trying to find panda paw prints
- C scientists creating nature centers
- D scientists studying how much bamboo pandas eat

6. What kinds of clues did scientists collect in order to count wild pandas?

7. How might the nature centers that scientists want to create in China help pandas survive?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____the scientists were surprised by the results of the panda count, they are still concerned for the future of pandas in China.

- A Although
- B But
- C So
- D Because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Scientists looked for clues in the bamboo forests of China so they could count the number of giant pandas.

Who? scientists

(did) What? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

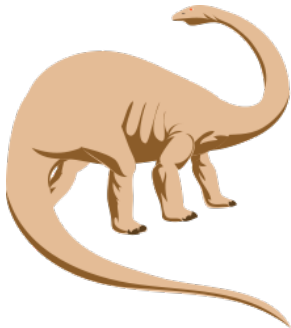
10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: exist (ex · ist): to be or to be real.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline the word **exist**.

1. People have existed on Earth for a long time.
2. Some children say that the Tooth Fairy does not exist.
3. Pandas only exist in China and in no other country in the world.
4. Elves and wizards exist in our imaginations and in stories.
5. There are a lot of animals and plants that no longer exist on the Earth because they have become extinct.

10b. Which animal no longer exists?



11. Do you exist? Why or why not?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 740

Featured Text Structure: Problem/Solution – the writer poses a problem and suggests possible solutions

Passage Summary: The passage describes how scientists searched for clues to try to get an accurate count of the number of giant pandas in China. They learned that there are many more pandas living than they had thought. The passage also raises the issue that pandas are still endangered in China.

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- A because they are the same color as the trees
- B because they hide among the bamboo trees**
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- D because they don't like being counted

2. What is one example of a problem and solution that are described in this article?

- A The problem is that baby pandas are too small, and the solution is to feed the baby pandas more.
- B The problem is that pandas are endangered, and the solution is to stop cutting down the trees where pandas live.
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- A scientists working to count giant pandas**
- B scientists trying to find panda paw prints
- C scientists creating nature centers
- D scientists studying how much bamboo pandas eat

6. What kinds of clues did scientists collect in order to count wild pandas?

Suggested answer: Scientists looked for paw prints on the ground and for fur on the bark of trees in order to count the wild pandas. [see paragraph #1]

7. How might the nature centers that scientists want to create in China help pandas survive?

Suggested answer: The nature centers might help pandas survive because cutting down trees would not be allowed in the centers and the passage states that one major reason that pandas are endangered is that people are cutting down the trees in the forests where they live. [see paragraphs #7 & #8]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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A Although

B But

C So

D Because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Scientists looked for clues in the bamboo forests of China so they could count the number of giant pandas.

Who? scientists

(did) What? **looked for clues**

Where? **in the bamboo forests of China**

Why? **so they could count the number of giant pandas**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: exist

Step 1: Introduce the word

- Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (ex · ist)
- Teacher says: "This word is exist. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "exist."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- Teacher says: "Exist means to be or to be real."
- Teacher says: "In the passage, it is explained that more giant pandas existed than scientists first thought."
- Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "exist."]

Step 3: Practice the word

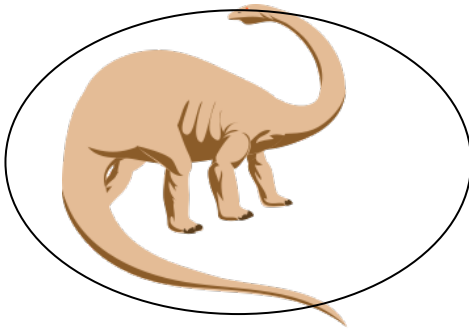
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the 1st sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. People have existed on Earth for a long time.
 2. Some children say that the Tooth Fairy does not exist.
 3. Pandas only exist in China and in no other country in the world.
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 5. There are a lot of animals and plants that no longer exist on the Earth because they have become extinct.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** Which animal no longer exists?



- 11.** Do you exist? Why or why not?

Suggested answer: Yes because I am alive and I am real.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: clues, nature