



Giant pandas are a type of bear from central China. There are only just over a thousand still living in the wild. There are also a small number of pandas in zoos – there are two at Edinburgh zoo.

Pandas are easy to spot: they have large black patches around the eyes and over the ears. The rest of the body is

white with black bands. They have a tail about 12 cm long and paws with a thumb and five toes. A fully grown giant panda weighs about 160 kg.

Their diet is 99% bamboo but they will sometimes eat other grasses or even dead birds or rodents. They eat up to 18 kg of bamboo a day, spending over 12 hours eating. Most of the rest of the time they rest or sleep. They also like to drink fresh water from the mountain streams and rivers.



The babies are tiny (about the size of a coffee mug) pink, hairless and blind. The cubs' eyes open after 7 weeks, they learn to crawl after about 10 weeks and begin to develop teeth by 14 weeks. The mother's milk is the main food until about 7 to 9 months when they start to eat bamboo. The young cubs stay with the mother for three years

before moving away on their own. Animals such as martens, dholes ( a kind of wild dog) and weasels will try to attack young pandas for food. To stay safe they usually climb up trees.

Adult pandas spend most of their lives in isolation and if they do come across another panda they might well be aggressive and fight.

The panda has featured as the World Wildlife Fund's logo since its founding in 1961 and undoubtedly it is one of the most easily recognised of all animals, even though there are so few of them.



Questions: answer in full sentences please.

1. Where are giant pandas found in the wild? .....

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2. Where might you be able to see a giant panda in the United Kingdom? .....

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3. Describe a giant panda in your own words. ....

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4. How much bamboo does a panda eat each day? .....

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5. When not eating what else does a panda do during the day? .....

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6. How long is it before a baby panda's eyes open? .....

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7. Why do you think that there are so few giant pandas left in the wild? .....

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8. Do you think pandas are friendly creatures. Give a reason for your answer. ....

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9. What charity has used the panda for its logo for over 50 years? .....

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### Answers

1. Giant pandas are only found in China.
2. In the United Kingdom you might be able to see a giant panda in a zoo such as Edinburgh Zoo.
3. A description of a giant panda.
4. A panda eats about 18 kg of bamboo each day.
5. When not eating, a panda spends much of its time resting or sleeping.
6. A baby panda's eyes open after about 7 weeks.
7. Any sensible answer; living in isolation, lack of bamboo as habitat is destroyed etc.
8. Any sensible answer with a reason.
9. The World Wildlife Fund has used the panda for its logo for over 50 years.