

Giant Pandas



1. The Giant Panda is not really a bear. **True False**
2. Giant Pandas are herbivores. **True False**
3. Giant Pandas are solitary animals. **True False**
4. There are over 500,000 pandas living in the wild. **True False**
5. Giant Pandas hibernate in winter. **True False**
6. A panda sow usually gives birth to only one cub. **True False**
7. Giant Pandas live throughout the forests of Europe and Asia. **True False**
8. The Chinese name for the Giant Panda is Daxiongmao which means “large bear cat.” **True False**
9. A baby panda weighs between 7- 8 lbs at birth. **True False**
10. Pandas have “opposable thumbs.” **True False**

Giant Pandas

1. **False**

Although pandas differ from other bears in many ways, DNA results in the 1990s revealed that they were in the same Ursidae family.



2. **False**

All members of the Ursidae (bear) family are in the Carnivore (meat eating) Order. However, the Giant Panda has adapted to an Herbivore (plant eating) life. Bamboo makes up over 90% of its diet. Because the panda is actually a carnivore by design, it cannot easily absorb the nutrients from the bamboo and must eat enough bamboo to sustain it. Giant pandas spend ten to sixteen hours a day eating forty pounds of bamboo.

3. **True**

Pandas normally live a solitary life, spending most of their time eating. They come together for a very short while to mate.

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4. **False**

There are only about 1000 pandas living in the wild today.

5. **False**

The Giant Panda does not store enough energy to hibernate and must continue to look for food.

6. **True**

Sometimes the sow will give birth to twins, but usually only one cub survives.

7. **False**

Pandas live in the bamboo forests of China.

8. **True**

Da xiong mao means “large bear cat.”

9. **False**

A newborn panda weighs between 4-6 ounces.

10. **True**

Pandas have extended wrist bones that work as opposable thumbs. These “thumbs” help the panda to both climb and hold food.