All About Pandas

There are two main kinds of panda.

The giant panda has black and white fur.

The red panda has reddish fur.

Giant Pandas

- Giant pandas look like bears.
- They live in the mountains in China.
- They like to live alone.
- They spend a lot of time on the forest floor.

Red Pandas

- Red pandas look a bit like squirrels or raccoons.
- They have sharp claws which help them climb.
- They have long tails which help them balance.
- They live in the mountains. They stay in the treetops to avoid predators.

Food

Giant pandas and red pandas both eat mostly bamboo. Sometimes they eat other things like insects, flowers or fruit.

Giant pandas are much bigger than red pandas. One giant panda weighs the same as about 20 red pandas.

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Questions

1. Which of these is a kind of panda? Tick one.

   ◯ blue panda
   ◯ brown panda
   ◯ red panda

2. What colour fur does the giant panda have? Tick one.

   ◯ black and white
   ◯ red and brown
   ◯ black and brown

3. Where do pandas live? Tick one.

   ◯ by the sea
   ◯ in the mountains
   ◯ in the Arctic

4. What is the main thing pandas eat? Tick one.

   ◯ meat
   ◯ nuts
   ◯ bamboo

5. One giant panda weighs about the same as how many red pandas? Tick one.

   ◯ 5
   ◯ 20
   ◯ 45

Answers

1. Which of these is a kind of panda? Tick one.

- ◯ blue panda
- ◯ brown panda
- ✓ **red panda**

2. What colour fur does the giant panda have? Tick one.

- ✓ **black and white**
- ◯ red and brown
- ◯ black and brown

3. Where do pandas live? Tick one.

- ◯ by the sea
- ✓ **in the mountains**
- ◯ in the Arctic

4. What is the main thing pandas eat? Tick one.

- ◯ meat
- ◯ nuts
- ✓ **bamboo**

5. One giant panda weighs about the same as how many red pandas? Tick one.

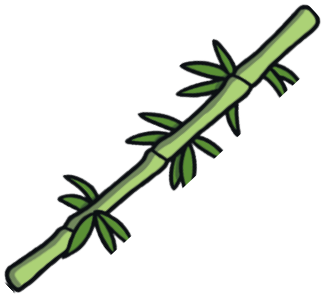
- ◯ 5
- ✓ **20**
- ◯ 45

All About Pandas

There are two main types of panda living in the wild.

Giant pandas are members of the bear family. They have black and white fur.

Red pandas are more like racoons or squirrels. They have fur that is reddish-brown.

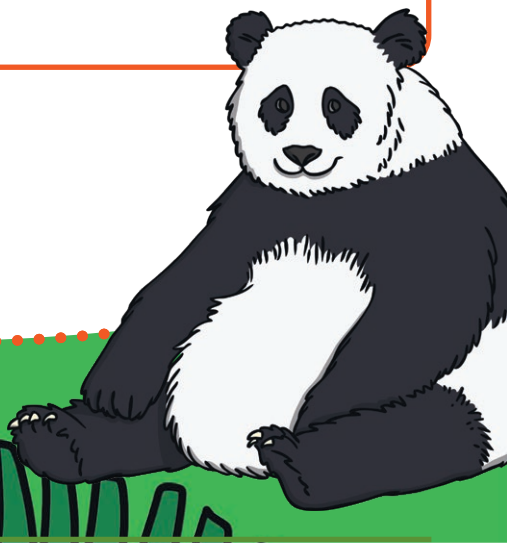


How Are They the Same?

- They eat bamboo.
- They live in the mountains.
- They live in China.
- They have five fingers and a special kind of thumb on their paws.
- They are at risk of extinction in the wild.

Fact

Extinct means that there are no more living examples of that plant or animal.



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How Are They Different?

- Giant pandas spend most of their time on the forest floor and red pandas spend most of their time in the trees.
- Red pandas have a long tail and giant pandas have shorter tails like bears.
- Giant pandas are much larger than red pandas.
- Red pandas don't just live in China. They also live in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

Diet

Bamboo is the main food of giant pandas but they will sometimes also eat things like fish, small rodents, insects and birds.

Red pandas eat a lot of bamboo too. Red pandas will also eat things like insects, fruit, flowers and eggs.

Did you Know...?

A red panda's coat helps it to blend in with the forest colours.

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Questions

1. Where in the world would you find giant pandas and red pandas living in the wild? Tick one.

   ◯ Japan
   ◯ China
   ◯ Russia

2. Where does the giant panda spend most of its time? Tick one.

   ◯ in the treetops
   ◯ underground
   ◯ on the forest floor

3. Draw three lines to match the beginning of the sentence to the correct ending.

Red pandas...	are like racoons or squirrels.
Giant pandas...	have five fingers and a special kind of thumb.
Giant pandas and red pandas both...	have a short tail.

4. Fill in the missing word.

   A red panda's coat helps it to _____ in with the forest colours.

5. Giant pandas are members of which family?

   _____

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Answers

1. Where in the world would you find giant pandas and red pandas living in the wild? Tick one.

   ◯ Japan
   ✓ **China**
   ◯ Russia

2. Where does the giant panda spend most of its time? Tick one.

   ◯ in the treetops
   ◯ underground
   ✓ **on the forest floor**

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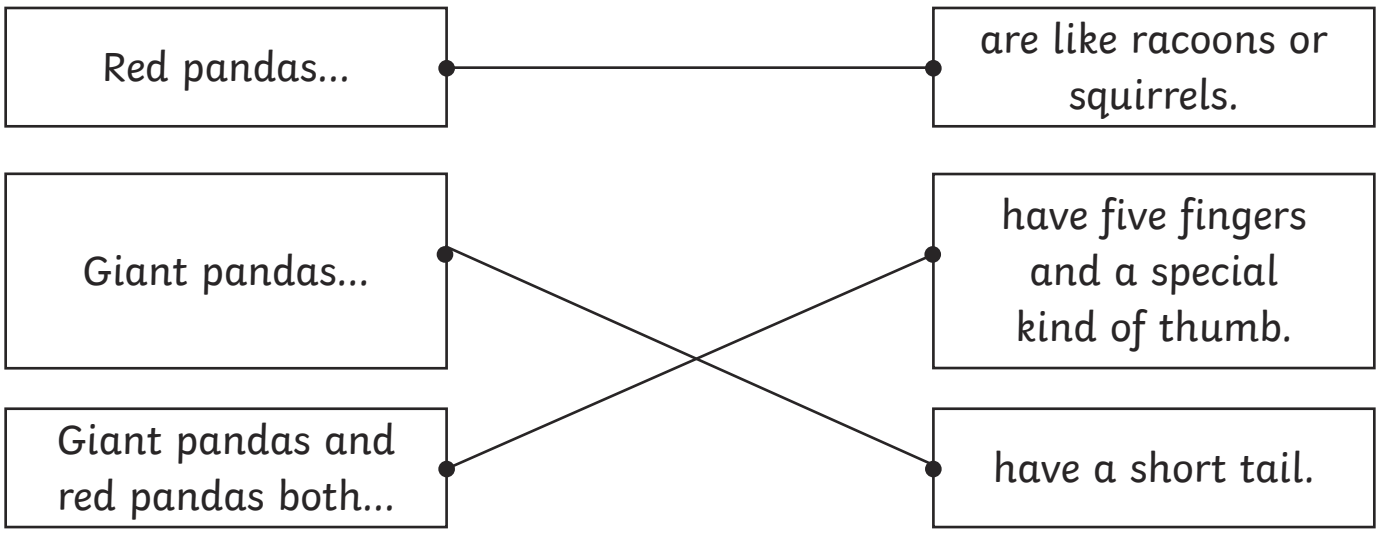

4. Fill in the missing word.

   A red panda's coat helps it to **blend** in with the forest colours.

5. Giant pandas are members of which family?

   They are members of the bear family.

All About Pandas

There are two main species of pandas known as giant pandas and red pandas. Giant pandas are members of the bear family whereas red pandas are more closely related to racoons or squirrels.

Appearance

Giant pandas have black and white fur with a black patch over each eye. On their paws, they have five fingers and a special kind of thumb.

Red pandas have reddish-brown fur and are much smaller than giant pandas. Their sharp claws and long tails help them to grip and balance in the trees. Like giant pandas, they have paws with five fingers and a special kind of thumb.

At Risk

If a plant or animal becomes extinct, it means there will never be any more of that species again. A species that is vulnerable is at high risk of extinction and a species that is endangered is at very high risk of extinction. Sadly, giant pandas are listed as a vulnerable species and red pandas are endangered.

Diet

Bamboo is the main food of giant pandas. It is a type of grass and is not very **nutritious** so they need to eat a lot of it. Giant pandas can eat around 27kg of bamboo in a day. That's almost the same weight as a nine-year-old

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child. Giant pandas will sometimes eat other things like fish, small rodents, insects and birds.

Red pandas eat lots of bamboo too but less than giant pandas. Red pandas will also eat other items, such as insects, fruit, flowers and eggs.

Where They Can Be Found

Both kinds of pandas live in the mountains where it is cool and wet. The giant panda spends most of its time on the forest floor. The smaller red panda spends most of its time in the treetops to avoid predators like snow leopards.

In the wild, the only place to find giant pandas is China in Asia. Some giant pandas live in zoos in other parts of the world too. Red pandas can also be found in China, as well as in Nepal, India, Bhutan and Myanmar.

Did you Know...?

- All giant pandas belong to China. Those living in zoos around the world are being borrowed from China.
- Pandas are **solitary** animals.
- The red pandas' coat is designed to **camouflage** them in their forest homes.
- Giant pandas are a symbol of good luck and friendship.

Glossary

camouflage: A way to blend in with your surroundings.

nutritious: Food or drink that is filled with energy and vitamins.

solitary: Living on your own rather than in a larger group or pack.

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Questions

1. What do giant pandas and red pandas have in common? Tick one.

   ◯ Both are members of the bear family.
   ◯ Both have paws with five fingers and a kind of thumb.
   ◯ Both are only found in the wild in China.

2. Which of these statements about the pandas' diet is true? Tick one.

   ◯ Pandas only eat plants.
   ◯ Pandas only eat meat.
   ◯ Pandas mainly eat plants but they will eat meat sometimes.

3. Look at the sections called Where They Can Be Found. Fill in the missing word.

   Both kinds of panda live in the _____ where it is cool and wet.

4. Why does the red panda spend most of its time in the treetops?

   _____

5. Find and copy one word which tells you that giant pandas living in zoos around the world still belong to China.

   _____

6. Why do you think giant pandas are important in China?

   _____

   _____

   _____

Answers

1. What do giant pandas and red pandas have in common? Tick one.

   ◯ Both are members of the bear family.
   ✓ **Both have paws with five fingers and a kind of thumb.**
   ◯ Both are only found in the wild in China.

2. Which of these statements about the pandas' diet is true? Tick one.

   ◯ Pandas only eat plants.
   ◯ Pandas only eat meat.
   ✓ **Pandas mainly eat plants but they will eat meat sometimes.**

3. Look at the sections called Where They Can Be Found. Fill in the missing word.

   Both kinds of panda live in the **mountains** where it is cool and wet.

4. Why does the red panda spend most of its time in the treetops?
   The red panda spends most of its time in the treetops to avoid predators like the snow leopard.

5. Find and copy one word which tells you that giant pandas living in zoos around the world still belong to China.

   borrowed

6. Why do you think giant pandas are important in China?

   Pupils' own responses, such as: Giant pandas are a symbol of good luck and friendship and they can only be found living in the wild in China.