

Unit Twelve: Environment and Nature

Lesson 3 - The Giant Panda

Though they are one of the most beloved animal species on Earth, pandas aren't safe from the devastating effects of climate change. According to a new study, projected temperature increases in China over the next century will likely seriously hinder bamboo, almost the sole source of food for endangered pandas. Ninety-nine per cent of a panda's diet is bamboo and an adult panda needs around 38 kilograms of bamboo every day. Only if bamboo can move to new habitats at higher elevations will pandas stand a chance of survival, the researchers said. However, if conservation programs wait too long, human inhabitants and activities could claim all of the new habitats capable of supporting bamboo in a warming world.

"It is tough, but I think there's still hope, if we take action now," said research team member Jianguo Liu ... "If we wait, then we could be too late." The researchers used various climate-change models to project the future for three bamboo species relied on by pandas in the Qinling Mountain region of China, which represents about a quarter of the total remaining panda habitat. These models varied their specific predictions, but each forecasted some level of temperature rise within the coming century.

The results suggest that if the bamboo is restricted to its current distribution area, between 80 and 100 percent of it will disappear by the end of the 21st century, because it won't be able to grow under the increased temperatures.

If, however, bamboo can move into new, cooler areas (which will reach the same temperatures as current bamboo habitats due to warming), then there is hope. However, all depend on the extent to which humans can curtail climate change by limiting greenhouse-gas emissions in the future.

A Choose the correct answer from the alternatives:

1x5=5

(a) What is meant by 'encroachment'?

- i. enjoyment ii. merriment iii. procurement iv. infringement

(b) What is the contextual meaning of 'encompassed'?

- i. surrounded ii. broadened iii. shortened iv. enlightened

(c) How can climate change be curtailed to some extent?

- i. By increasing greenhouse gas ii. By controlling the emission of greenhouse gas
iii. By evolving greenhouse effect iv. By surplusing greenhouse effect

(d) What is the present status of panda population?

- i. Out of risk ii. Danger-free iii. Extricated iv. Endangered

(e) Pandas should not be a breeding center or a zoo.

- i. provided with ii. stick to iii. confined to iv. kept in touch with

B. Answer the following Question:

2x5=10

- (a) What is the probable impact of conservationist's plan on land preservation?
(b) What will happen to the current bamboo habitats in the years to come?
(c) What are the causes of climate change?
(d) Why doesn't he predict a bright future for the bears?
(e) How might animals genetic diversity, suffer?

2. Read the passage and complete the table below with the given information.

1x10=10

Who / what	Event / Activity	What / Whom	When/Where / How/why
Between 80 and 100 percent of (i)-----	Will disappear by the end of 21 st century		as (ii)-----
Humans	(iii)-----	Climate change	by (iv)-----
(v)-----in the wild	Currently live		in (vi)-----
Almost half of the land encompassed by those reserves	(vii)-----	for the bamboo	because of (viii)-----
(ix)-----	doesn't predict	(X)----- for the bears	If they lose their wild habitat

Or Based on your reading of the Passage below, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow-chart showing how to save Panda's food. (No. 1 has been done for you)



3. Summarize the text.

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