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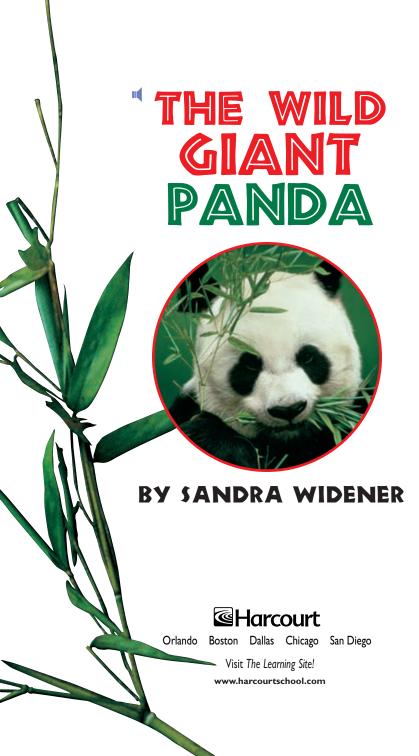
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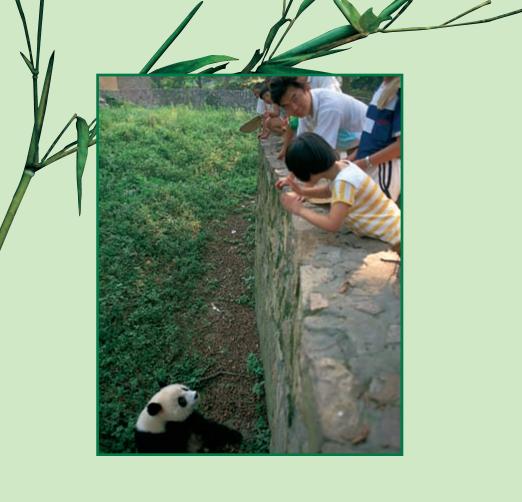
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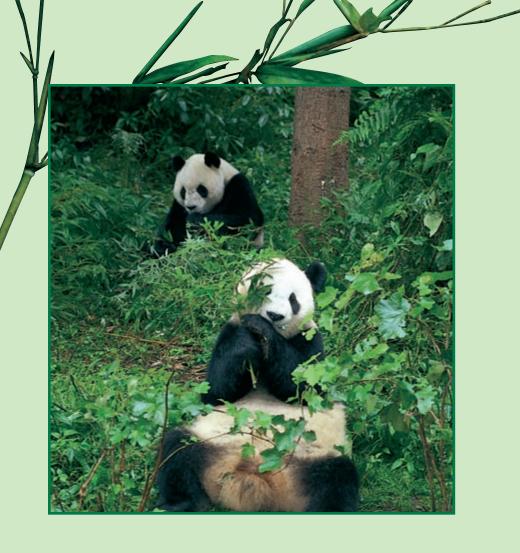




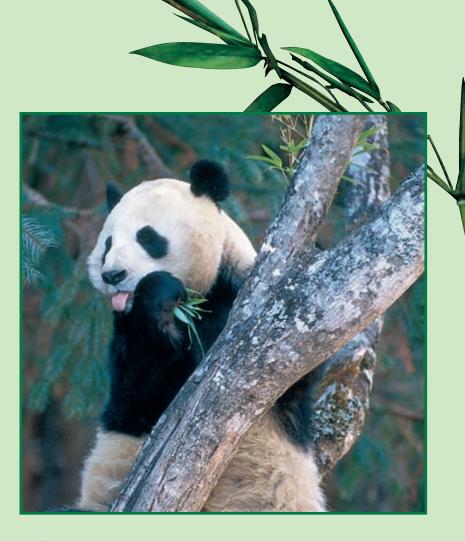
Have you ever seen a wild giant panda? Only one animal has that kindly face and those fluffy black hind legs.



Wild giant pandas are not like black bears. Giant pandas eat bamboo. Black bears do not. Pandas do not hibernate or walk on their hind legs like black bears do.



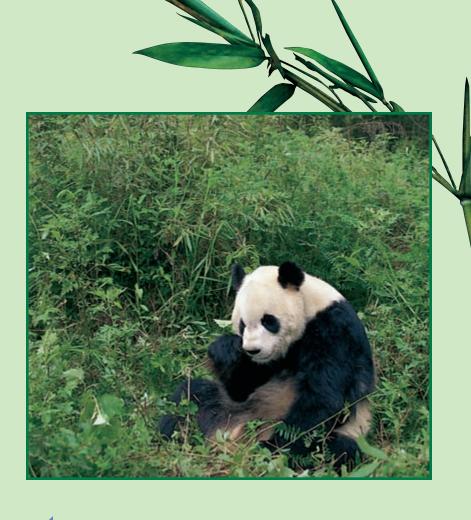
Wild giant pandas live high in the forests of China. About 1,000 of them live in the wild in China.



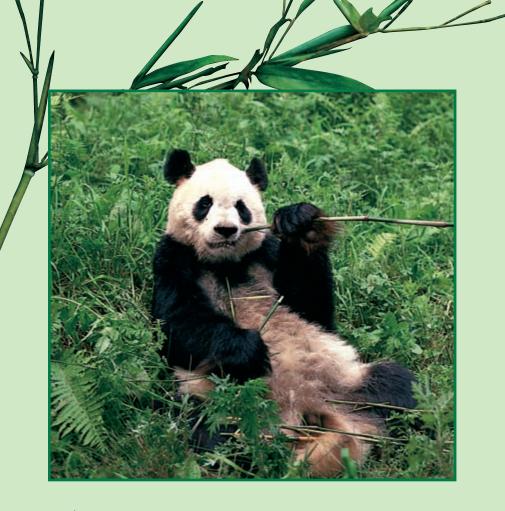
Wild giant pandas in China spend ten or more hours every day finding food. Wild pandas eat one kind of food—bamboo.



Wild giant pandas must eat more than fifty pounds of bamboo in a day. No wonder the giant panda spends so much time looking for food!

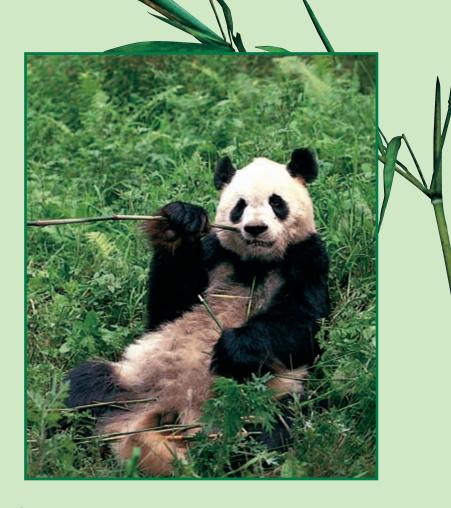


Each wild giant panda needs lots of land to find that much bamboo. Maybe that is why they don't like other pandas around.



Once wild pandas find bamboo, they grind it with their big teeth.

Giant pandas eat almost every part of the bamboo. Very little is left behind.



When giant pandas are born, they are tiny. A grown giant panda can weigh 220 pounds, but a newborn panda weighs only a few ounces!



A wild giant panda mother is very kind. She keeps her tiny infant in a special pouch during the first few months.



When a young panda is about eight months old, both mother and child know the little panda is ready to leave the pouch. The young panda looks for its own bamboo to eat.



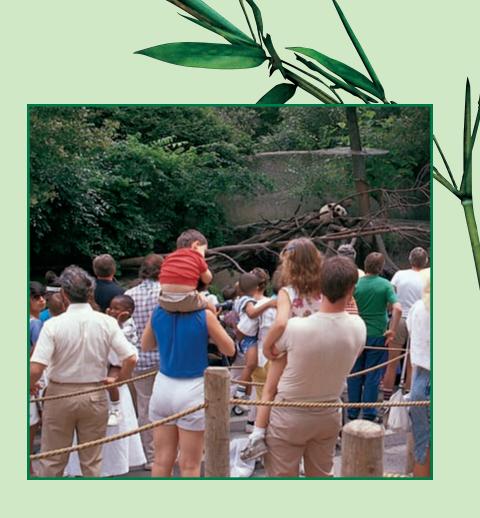
Thousands of years ago, many Chinese people thought that wild giant pandas were special. Even then, pandas were very rare. People in China thought that pandas brought good luck.



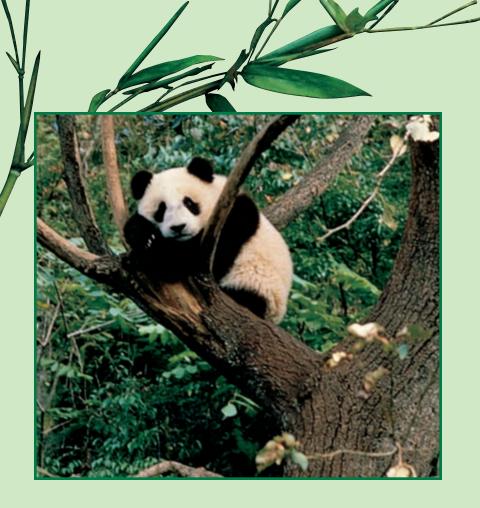
Today many people are trying to protect giant pandas in the wild in China.



The people of China give giant pandas to other countries as a sign of friendship. There are giant pandas in zoos all over the world.



People who see giant pandas in zoos love these animals from China. People like to see giant pandas as much as lions and tigers.



People who see the giant panda in the zoo may want to help save pandas in the wild. They can help make the giant panda safe in the wilds of China.

## Think and Respond

- What happens when pandas are about eight months old?
- Why do pandas spend more than ten hours a day looking for food?
- What is this book mainly about?
- What do you think people can do to save the wild giant panda?
- What is the most interesting thing you learned about the giant panda?



**Find China** Look on a map or a globe and find China. Locate the capital of the country by using the map key.



**School-Home Connection** With a family member, make up a story about pandas. You may both want to write and illustrate the story.

Word Count: 370