

# Giant panda no longer endangered

SPEAKING

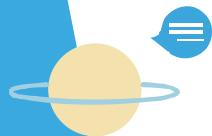
LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_3014S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English



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## Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a complex text about giant panda populations.
- Can share my own views on conservation strategies and evaluate the importance of protecting endangered species.







## The giant panda

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you see a photograph of a loveable **giant panda**?

Tell your teacher.





## Define

What does it mean when a species is classified as **'endangered'**?





## Endangered species

What are some reasons why an animal might be classified as 'endangered' in the first place?

Talk to the teacher.



Human  
behaviour?



Threats and  
risks?





## Giant panda no longer endangered



No animal represents efforts of nature conservation like the giant panda. The black and white **mammal** also serves as one of the Chinese nation's national symbols and is regarded fondly by people around the world. Despite growing awareness, the loveable panda, with its appetite for **bamboo**, has suffered in the wild as China's population has boomed. In a refreshingly positive conservation story however, the slide in the panda population appears to have been prevented. Recent data collected by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (I.U.C.N) shows a growth in panda numbers in the wild. As a result, the status of the giant panda in the wild has shifted from '**endangered**' to 'vulnerable'.



## Giant panda no longer endangered

Native to southern and central China, the most significant threat to the giant panda's wellbeing has been farming, deforestation and urban development. The animal's **infamously** low birthrate adds to its vulnerability. The birth of giant panda cubs in captivity is newsworthy, as it is a rare feat to develop interest in pandas for the opposite sex.







## New words

**mammal**

Human beings are warm-blooded **mammals**.

**bamboo**

90 percent of a giant panda's diet is **bamboo**.

**endangered**

The species was recently classified as **endangered** by a conservation group.

**infamously**

The three-toed sloth is well-known for its **infamously** sleepy demeanour.



## Categorise

**Categorise the potential causes for population loss of giant pandas.**

	Lack of reproductive drive	Habitat pollution	
Lack of food	Natural predators in the wild	Climate change	Hunting and poaching
	Urban growth in China	Disappearing bamboo forests	
Very likely	Somewhat likely	Unlikely	
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	



## Analysing the text

“Recent data collected by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (I.U.C.N) shows a growth in panda numbers in the wild.”

- How might the I.U.C.N have collected this data?
- Where does it come from?
- Can we be sure it is reliable?



## stakeholder

A person or group with a vested interest in something is a **stakeholder**.



Different groups of **stakeholders** gathered at the town hall in an attempt to resolve their dispute.



## Stakeholders

Describe the positions of the different stakeholders in the issue of giant panda conservation. Do you think the descriptions below are applicable?

Frustrated at limitations to agricultural development



**Farmers**

Cautiously optimistic about the recent data suggesting a rise in the population



**Conservationists**



**Members of the public**

Concerned about long term health of the species



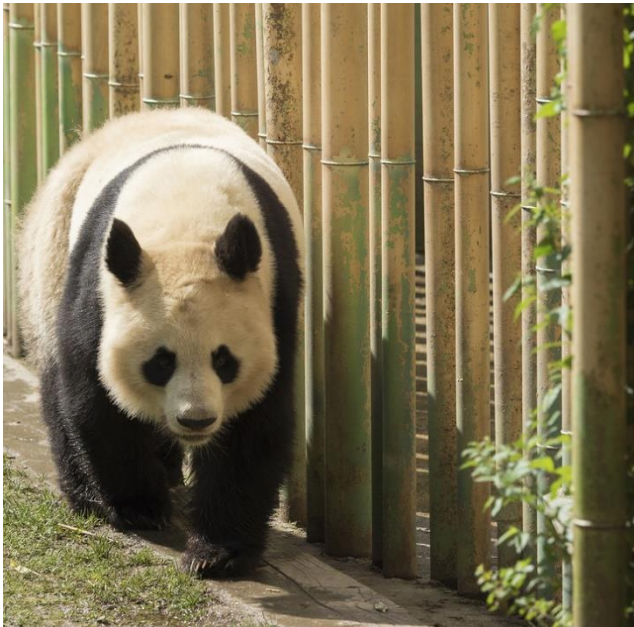
**Loggers**

Disregard the plight of pandas in their desire for more profits



## Discuss the scenarios

**Which scenario is most likely? Discuss each potential reason why giant pandas are so reluctant to breed in captivity.**



1

The panda's diet of bamboo doesn't give it much energy for love.

2

Pandas only mate with partners they feel attached to.

3

Pandas bred in captivity simply haven't learnt their normal sexual instincts, only learning this in the wild.





You are a zoologist working in the area of panda conservation.

How will you encourage your zoo's pair of pandas to breed?



More interested in bamboo than breeding!



Incentives?



## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on  
training your listening comprehension



## Questionnaire (check the following slide for vocabulary!)

	TRUE	FALSE
1. The People's Republic of China have been dismissive about giant panda conservation in the past.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Remaining pockets of giant panda population are found in the Minshan and Qinling mountains.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. One impending threat to panda populations is human destruction of bamboo forests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Pandas breed more readily in captivity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Giant pandas spend more than half of their day munching on bamboo!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Unchecked, the giant panda's population looks set to grow.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## New words

**plight**

We need to raise more awareness about the **plight** of the homeless.

**habitat**

The dense rainforest of the Amazon is its natural **habitat**.

**in tandem**

The organisations began working **in tandem** towards a common goal.

**impending**

Are you looking forward to your sister's **impending** visit?



## Conservation

**Despite rising populations in the wild, the plight of the giant panda is not yet over.**

**What can people do to support conservation efforts of giant pandas and other endangered species? Try to come up with strategies at a local and global level.**





## Risks

**Looking to the future, what do you think are the biggest risks facing the wellbeing of the giant panda? Order these threats from most likely to least likely, justifying your answer to your teacher.**



1

Environmental degradation and shrinking of habitat.

2

Lack of reproduction on species' part.

3

Unchecked urban and population growth in China.





## A matter of opinion

**Read the different statements and opinions below.**

- Nothing is more important than preserving the natural heritage of the Earth.
- Yes – considering the looming impacts of climate change, now is the time to invest in conservation.
- Governments have a range of economic pressures – every situation is different.
- Spreading awareness of conservation at a local level is more important than a top-down approach.
- Governments should look to take care of their human populations first, wildlife populations second.
- Conserving species is a strong investment in itself, encouraging tourism and other opportunities.

**Now consider these statements in relation to the quote and question on the following slide.**



## Conservation and government

**Should conservation organisations be given more support and resources from governments?**

**Discuss with reference to the quote below and the statements on the previous slide.**

“

The story of the giant panda is heartening. It shows that concentrated effort and careful planning between conservation groups and national governments can lead to stable populations in the wild.

”



## Talk

Conservation

If you could work as a conservationist, what species or region in the world would be passionate about saving?

"I love blue whales. They are the largest living mammal on the planet and are graceful, majestic creatures. Working to protect them would also give me a chance to work with marine ecosystems, which are critical for the health of the planet."



## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Transcription 1 of 2

The **plight** of the giant panda however is not yet over. Urban and industrial development is encroaching on the **habitat**, and pockets of remaining bamboo forest. The bulk of what remains of the population is found in the Minshan and Qinling mountains. The People's Republic of China has put great efforts into conserving the species. One of their strategies, the establishment of panda reserves, has proven to be effective in safeguarding the remaining population and ensuring that remaining habitats are protected from development. Working **in tandem** with conservation groups like the World Wildlife Fund (whose own iconic logo is the giant panda itself), there seems to be hope for China's iconic mascot. Large scale developmental projects such as mining and hydro-electric dams continue to feed China's growing appetite for power, while logging also takes its toll.



## Transcription 2 of 2

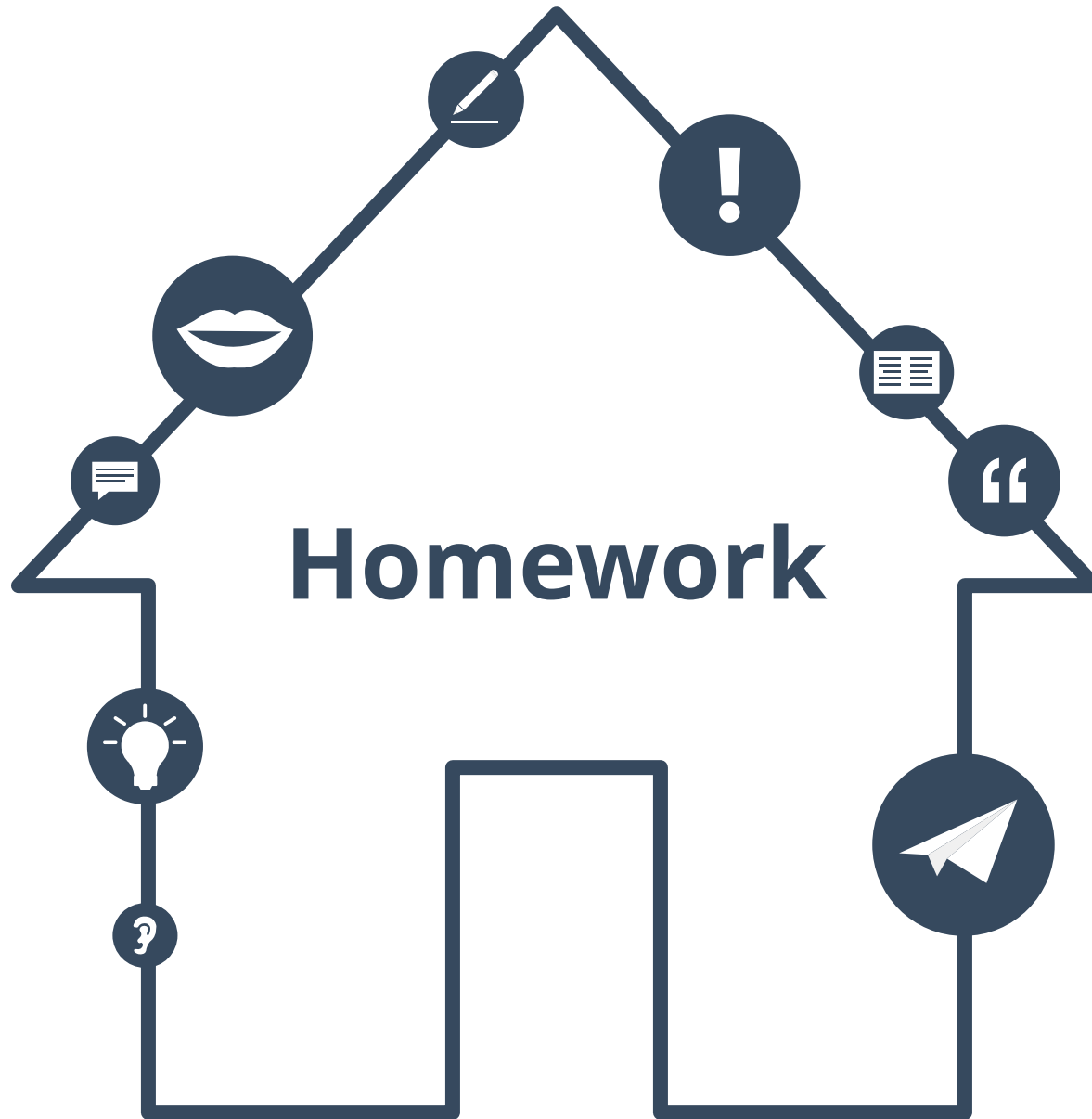
The story of the giant panda is heartening. It shows that concentrated effort and careful planning between conservation groups and national governments can lead to stable populations in the wild. The **impending** threat of climate change and its potential impact on bamboo forests could result in a scarcity of the panda's primary food source. When you consider that giant pandas spend 14 hours of their day munching on their favourite snack, it becomes clear that the fight to save the giant panda is far from over.





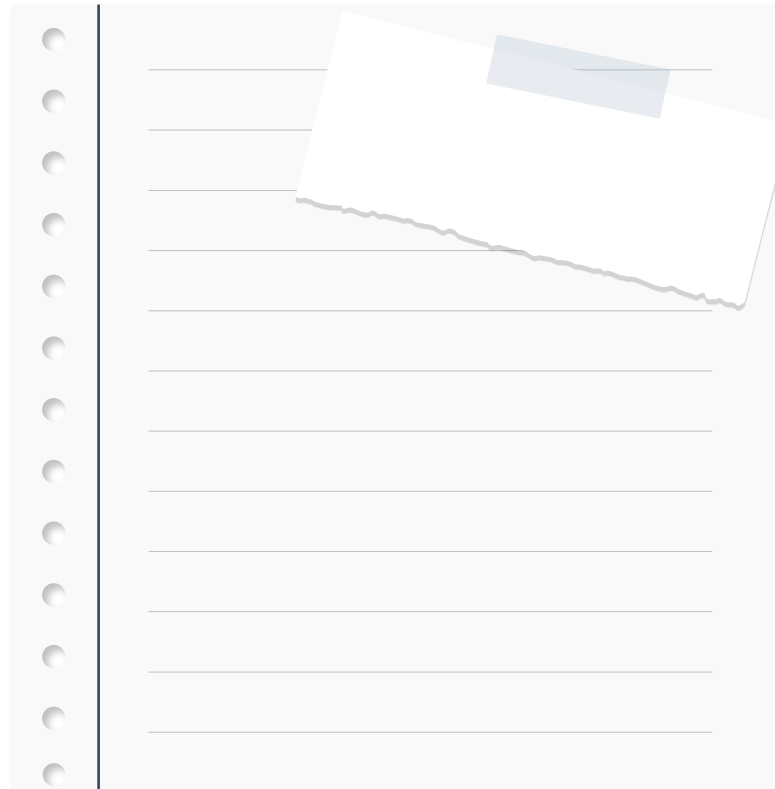
## Answer key

Activity p. 17 1F, 2T, 3F, 4F, 5T, 6F





**Update your list of favourite words with some vocabulary from this lesson.**





**Use the words from the previous slide in sentences to commit them to your active vocabulary.**

A large rectangular area for handwriting practice. It features a background of horizontal lines. On the left side, there is a vertical column of small circles, resembling punch holes. Overlaid on the left is a white, torn-edge paper with horizontal lines. A grey arrow points from this torn paper towards the right side of the practice area.





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