

LEVELED BOOK • I



# Tian Tian, a Giant Panda



Written by Melanie Shepherd

# Tian Tian, a Giant Panda



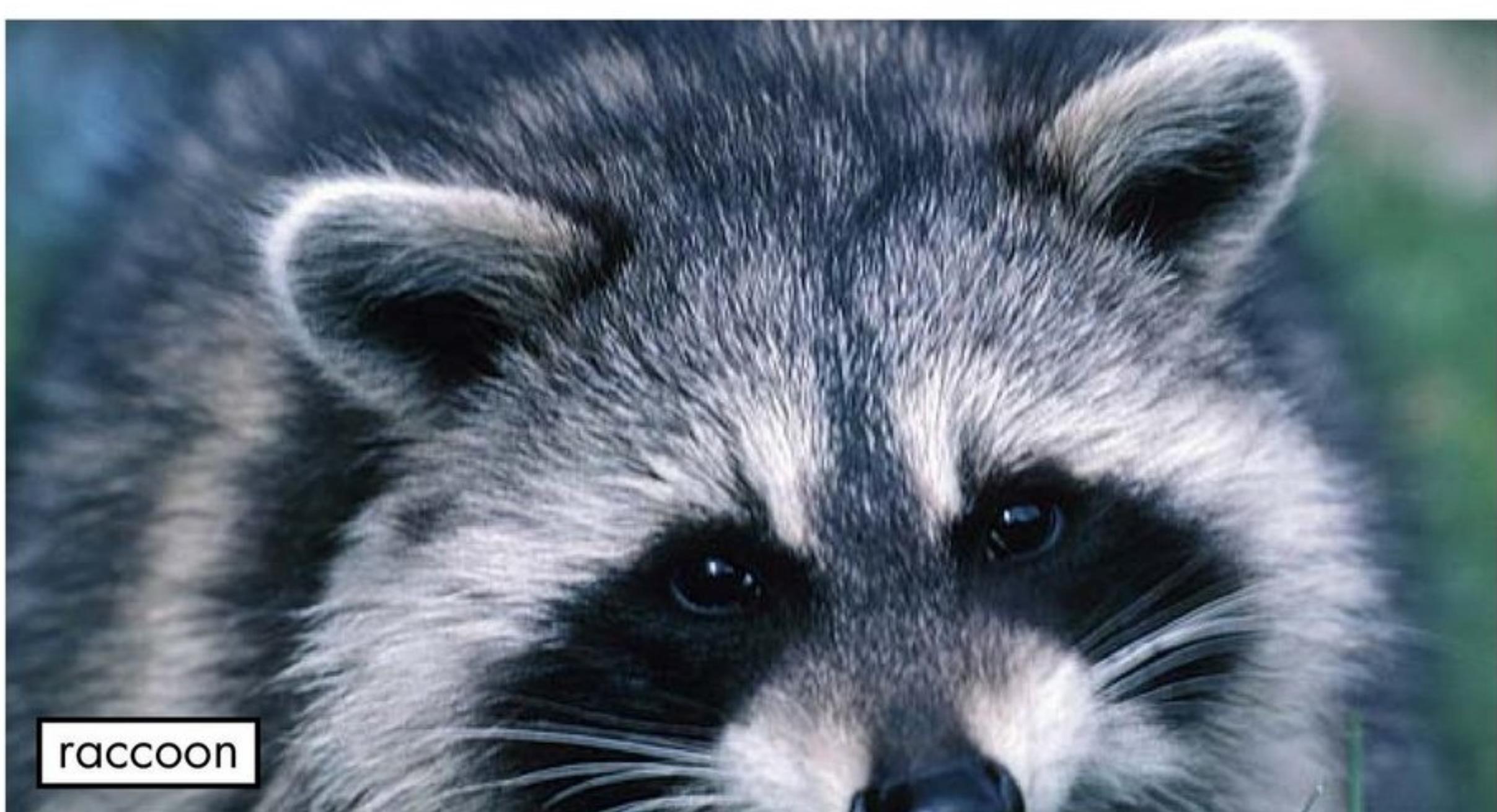
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This is Tian Tian.

He is a **giant panda**.

Most giant pandas have black  
and white fur like Tian Tian.



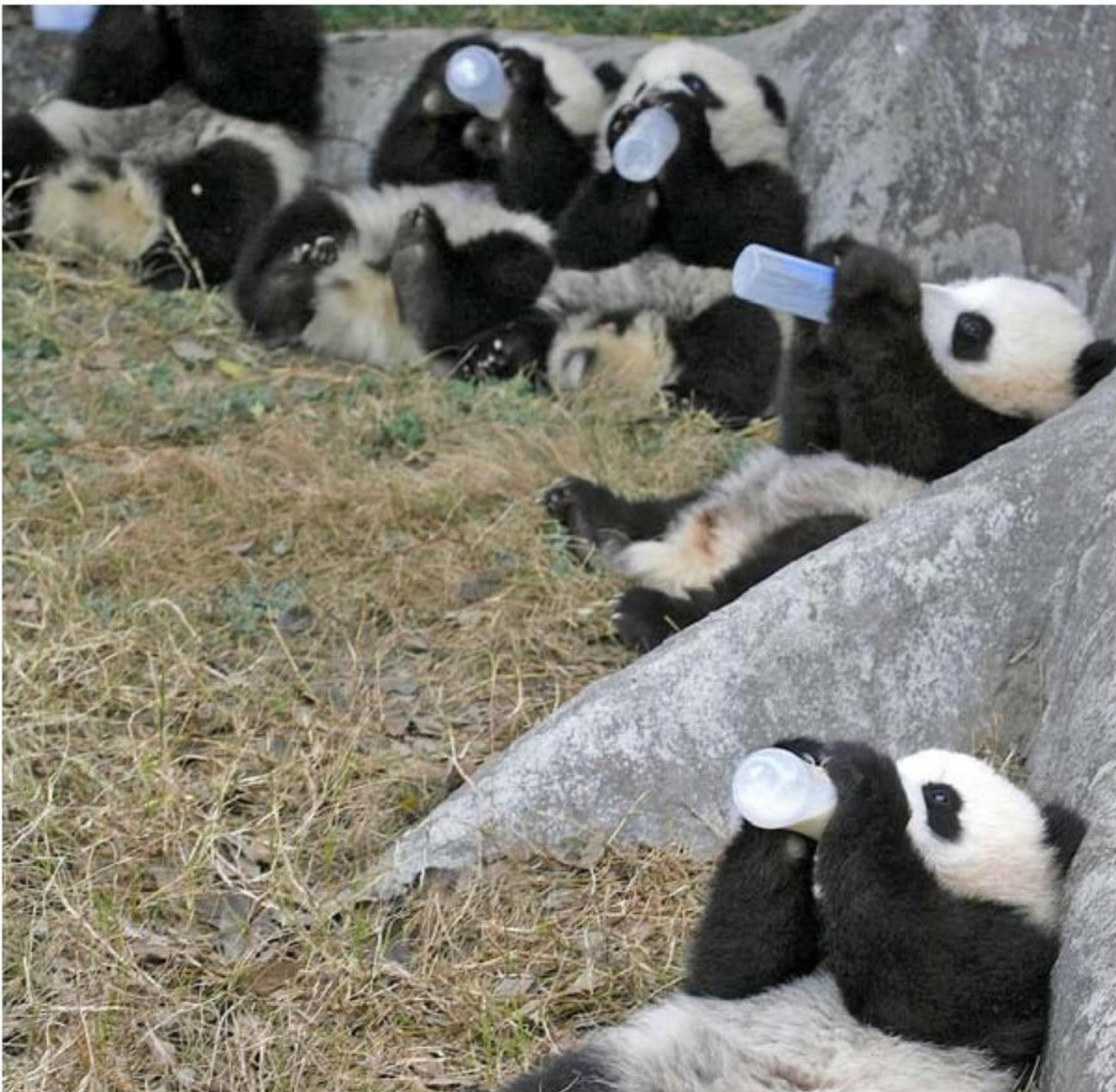
Tian Tian has black fur around his eyes.

Raccoons have black fur around  
their eyes, too.

But Tian Tian is not a raccoon.

He is a **bear**.

All giant pandas are bears.



The place where Tian Tian was born in China



Tian Tian was born in China.

He now lives at a zoo

in the United States.

He came to the United States

when he was three years old.

In China, he lived at a

**special** place for pandas.



Bamboo in mountain forests



China is the only place  
where **wild** giant pandas live.

They live in mountain **forests**.

There are only about 1,600  
wild giant pandas in China.



All giant pandas eat a plant  
called **bamboo**.

Bamboo grows in the  
mountain forests in China.

More people are cutting down  
the forests.

Without bamboo, giant pandas  
cannot **survive**.



Tian Tian and his mate Mei Xiang eat.



Tian Tian eats bamboo.

He can eat 40 pounds  
of bamboo every day.

He also eats biscuits.

He eats special fruit popsicles, too.

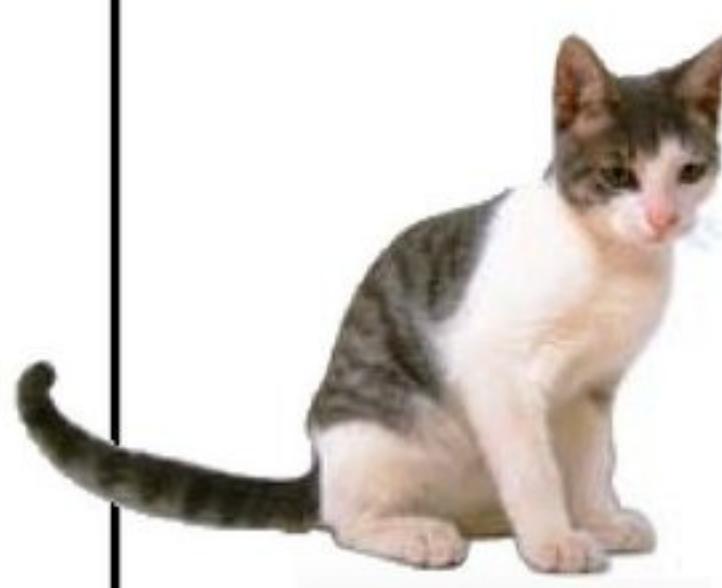
# Weight Chart



275  
pounds



75  
pounds



8  
pounds  
cat

dog

panda



Tian Tian is very big and strong.  
He **weighs** 275 pounds.  
That's as much as 34 cats.



Tian Tian's baby Tai Shan, top, with his mom Mei Xiang



Tian Tian turned eight years old in 2005.  
He became a father in 2005, too.  
His baby was born at the zoo.  
The baby is growing strong  
like Tian Tian.



Tian Tian and Mei Xiang play at the zoo.



Tian Tian stays strong by playing.  
He plays with toys.  
He also plays in trees.  
Do you like to play?  
How is Tian Tian like you?

## Glossary

**bamboo** (*n.*) a plant with long woody stems and long leaves (p. 7)

**bear** (*n.*) large animal with lots of fur and a short tail (p. 4)

**forests** (*n.*) large areas of land where lots of trees grow (p. 6)

**giant** bear from China that eats

**panda** (*n.*) bamboo and has black-and-white fur (p. 3)

**special** (*adj.*) for a certain thing or purpose (p. 5)

**survive** (*v.*) to stay alive (p. 7)

**weighs** (*v.*) to have a certain heaviness or weight (p. 9)

**wild** (*adj.*) living or growing in nature (p. 6)

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