

Panda

Giant pandas (often referred to as simply “pandas”) are black and white bears. In the wild, they are found in thick bamboo forests, high up in the mountains of central China. The giant panda’s scientific name is *Ailuropoda melanoleuca*, which means “black and white cat-foot”.



These guys are BIG eaters – every day they fill their tummies for up to 12 hours, shifting up to 12 kilograms of bamboo!



Giant pandas grow to between 1.2m and 1.5m, and weigh between 75kg and 135kg. Scientists aren’t sure how long pandas live in the wild, but in captivity they live to be around 30 years old. Female pandas give birth to one or two cubs every two years. Cubs stay with their mothers for 18 months before venturing off on their own!



Sadly, these beautiful bears are endangered, and it’s estimated that only around 1,000 remain in the wild. That’s why we need to do all we can to protect them!

Discussion Points:

1. What do Giant panda likes to eat?
2. How big can they grow?
3. How many months will the baby panda or cubs stay with their mother?