1 BAT READING COMPREHENSION
PANDA PRESERVATION

In December 2000, a pair of giant pandas from China called Tian Tian and Mei Xiang arrived at Washington Zoo. China had agreed to 'lend' the United States the two pandas for ten years. The zoo had been left without any pandas after the death of their two famous residents, Hsing Hsing and Ling Ling, who had been gifts from the Chinese government to the zoo in 1972. Those original pandas were a symbol of improving relations between the two countries after the end of the Cold War.

According to Washington Zoo, in that moment there were only about 1,000 pandas left in the wild and there are 140 in captivity at zoos and breeding centres around the world. The money which the zoo paid the Chinese government for Tian Tian and Mei Xiang helped projects in China to preserve pandas in the wild. In addition, if any cubs were born to the visiting pandas, they would be returned to China.

Before giant pandas became an endangered species, they could be found all over Asia, where there were extensive forests with plenty of bamboo - the panda's main source of food. However, the growth of China's cities, industries and farms began to severely reduce their habitat.

Recently, the Chinese government has created more than 30 reserves for pandas in the mountain forests which remain. In addition, in 1998, it banned tree cutting in panda habitats. However, in some places, illegal tree cutting has continued as pandas are competing with the human population to survive. Poor farmers often cut down trees just to provide wood for their fires.

Read the text and choose the best answer: A, B or C.

1 Tian Tian and Mei Xiang ...
- A lived in Washington Zoo for ten years.
- B will go back to China in ten years' time.
- C will always stay in Washington Zoo.
- D were the first pandas lent to the Washington Zoo by the Chinese government.

2 Hsing Hsing and Ling Ling ...
- A were bought by the American government.
- B were born in Washington Zoo.
- C were given to America by China

3 Which of these sentences is correct?
- A In 2000, the total quantity of pandas in the world was smaller than 1500
- B When Tian Tian and Mei Xiang arrived in the USA, most pandas were living in captivity.
- C Pandas can be found all over the Asian continent

2 Find words in the text that mean the following. Use the infinitive form for verbs (to...) and singular for nouns.

To give for a certain length of time

not in captivity (3 words)

baby panda

very large

an animal's natural home

LIVEWORKSHEETS