



READING WORD IN ENGLISH

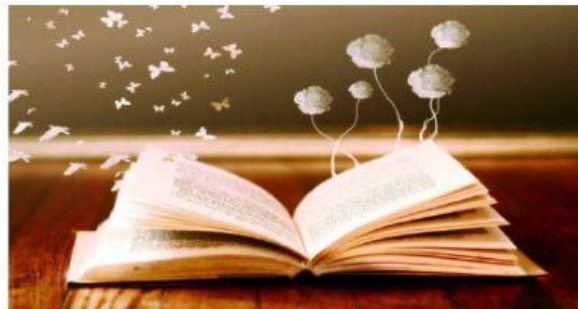
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1. THEME: Pandas Return to the Wild

What do you know about pandas?

The black and white giant panda lives high in the **bamboo** forests in China's mountains. These beautiful animals are in danger of becoming **extinct** because humans are destroying the forests where they live and the **bamboo** that they eat. To prevent this, the Chinese government created **conservation** programs and **nature reserves** to protect pandas and their **bamboo** homes. In fact, the government is spending about \$255 million every year to save the pandas.



Today, about two-thirds of the world's wild pandas live in sixty-seven **nature reserves** in China. "If we don't help them, they'll be **extinct** within the next thirty to fifty years," says Zhang Hemin, deputy director of the China **Conservation** and Research Center for the Giant Panda.

Experts say pandas need two things in order to **survive** in nature. They need to be able to find enough **bamboo** to eat. They also need to have their own **territory**, away from other pandas, because they don't like living in groups. And in order to **survive** as a **species**, pandas need to keep reproducing.



At the Wolong National Nature Reserve, pandas are **bred** by scientists. They live with their mothers in special areas of the reserve. The mothers train their young pandas to **survive** on their own. Once the young pandas are independent, they are released into the wild.

Although not all of the pandas from the Wolong National Nature Reserve have survived in the wild, China's **conservation** programs are having great success. Since the first **nature reserves** opened, the world's panda population has risen by 17%.

1. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Where do giant pandas live?
 - A) In bamboo forests
 - B) In Chinese nature reserves
 - C) In the mountains of China
 - D) All of the above

2. The Chinese government spends about \$255 million every year to?

- A) prevent pandas from becoming extinct.
- B) plant more bamboo forests
- C) train pandas to survive in nature.

- D) pay for the Wolong National Nature Reserve.

1. What is NOT something a panda needs to do to be successful in the wild?
 - A) Reproduce
 - B) Learn to live near people
 - C) Find enough bamboo to eat
 - D) Live in territory away from other pandas

- 4) What is true about the pandas at the Wolong National Nature Reserve?
- A) They are bred by humans.
 - B) They don't have enough to eat.
 - C) They live with humans their whole lives.
 - D) They do not like bamboo.

2. Glossary

nature reserve

place set apart for the protection of animals

extinct

no longer in existence; died out completely

conservation

protecting nature from dying out

survive

stay alive

bamboo

very tall, Woody plant that grows in China

territory

area of land claimed and defended by an animal or group of animals

survive

stay alive

species

class or type of animal

breed

have animals reproduce in controlled conditions



conservation

protecting nature from dying out

nature

nature (n)

(no plural) everything that exists and was not made by people.

