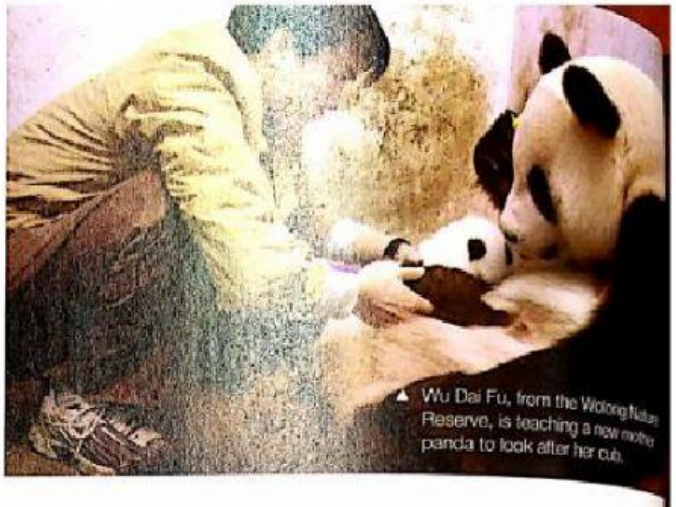
Summarizing. Complete the summary using words from the passage.

Baby panda Tai Shan could be seen by the public soon after his birth. In the first **1.** _____ months after his birth, the number of **2.** _____ to the zoo increased by half. However, caring for pandas in zoos is **3.** _____. It can cost over $2.5 million a year to look after the adult pandas alone. But the expenditure seems to be paying off. As a result of improvements in care over the last **4.** _____, the captive panda **5.** _____ has risen rapidly—to almost 300 pandas today.

Vocabulary Practice

A. Completion. Complete the information below using the correct form of the words in red.



▲ Wu Dai Fu, from the Wolong Nature Reserve, is teaching a new mother panda to look after her cub.

With its black-and-white coloring, cuddly shape, and sad-looking face, the giant panda is a precious animal to the people of China. Sadly, with the loss of the bamboo forests in which they live, the panda is becoming scarce. To restore the dwindling[1] number of pandas, various projects are in progress. One of these is the Wolong Panda Reserve in Sichuan Province, which is the best-known panda reserve in China. The center was founded in 1980 to accommodate captive pandas for the purposes of research and producing baby pandas. The success of the program has been dramatic, and has resulted in pandas being given or loaned to zoos around the world.

However, on May 12, 2008, disaster struck when the area in which the reserve is located was hit by a powerful earthquake. Two pandas died as a result of the earthquake, but fortunately most of the others escaped injury.

[1] If something **dwindles** it becomes smaller, weaker, or less in number.

1. In order to preserve the history and culture of a country, the _____ of old buildings is important.
2. During the _____ events following the 2008 earthquake, a number of pandas escaped from the reserve, but they were soon found.
3. Conservationists agree that endangered animals are a(n) _____ resource that we should protect.
4. For tourists who want to volunteer at Wolong Panda Reserve, _____ is available at a nearby hotel.
5. An animal species may become extinct if its food becomes _____.

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