



Read the animal report. Then classify each statement as FACT or OPINION — and explain your reasoning.

Scientific facts: measurements, classifications, behaviours confirmed by research. Opinions: what researchers, guides, or writers believe about an animal.

## The Giant Panda's Bamboo Forest

Deep in the misty mountains of central China lives one of the world's most beloved and recognizable animals: the Giant Panda . These magnificent bears are famous for their distinctive black and white fur, which helps them camouflage in snowy and rocky environments. Adult pandas can weigh between 150 and 300 pounds and stand about 4 to 5 feet tall.



They spend most of their day, up to 14 hours, eating bamboo, which makes up almost 99% of their diet.

Giant pandas are solitary creatures, meaning they prefer to live alone. A female panda typically gives birth to one or two cubs every two years. These tiny cubs are born pink and blind, weighing only about 3 to 5 ounces. Their survival is incredibly fragile in the wild, making every new birth a cause for celebration among conservationists. Many people believe that pandas are the most adorable animals on Earth, and it's easy to see why with their playful antics.

Dr. Mei Lin, a leading panda researcher at the Wolong National Nature Reserve, has dedicated her life to studying these fascinating creatures. She states, "The greatest challenge for pandas is habitat loss, as their bamboo forests are shrinking due to human activity." Her research indicates that a single panda needs access to several different types of bamboo to ensure a year-round food supply. Without diverse bamboo, pandas struggle to find enough to eat.



Conservation efforts have been ongoing for decades. In 2016, the Giant Panda was downgraded from "Endangered" to "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List, a significant success story. However, Dr. Lin believes, "We should continue to protect their habitats vigorously, as their future is still uncertain." Tourists often travel great distances to see pandas in zoos and nature reserves, highlighting their importance in raising awareness for conservation. Some argue that pandas are the most important symbol of wildlife conservation globally.

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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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- (1) **"Adult pandas can weigh between 150 and 300 pounds." Is this a FACT or OPINION? Circle the correct answer.** 🐼
- (A) Fact    (B) Opinion
- (2) **"Many people believe that pandas are the most adorable animals on Earth." Is this a FACT or OPINION? Circle the correct answer.** 🐼
- (A) Fact    (B) Opinion
- (3) **"In 2016, the Giant Panda was downgraded from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List." Is this a FACT or OPINION? Circle the correct answer.** 🐼
- (A) Fact    (B) Opinion
- (4) **"The greatest challenge for pandas is habitat loss, as their bamboo forests are shrinking due to human activity." Is this a FACT or OPINION? Circle the correct answer.** 🐼
- (A) Fact    (B) Opinion
- (5) **In your own words, explain the difference between a fact and an opinion. Use an example from the passage.** 🐼
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