

PANDA-MONTUM

What's black and white and spends half of its time eating? The giant panda! These shy creatures live in the misty, mountainous bamboo forests of southwestern China. In fact, 99% of their diet is bamboo—and they can eat 40 pounds (18 kg) a day or more!

Sadly, giant pandas are endangered, with less than 2,500 left in the wild. They're losing their forest habitat due to human activity, such as logging and farming. Climate change is another big threat, since bamboo is sensitive to changes in temperature. In the past, some

pandas starved when they ran out of bamboo.

But people are working to help save these gentle giants. They've built panda reserves and "bamboo corridors" to connect forests, so pandas can move between habitats. China has passed laws banning logging in natural forests, and people are replanting trees.

You can help, too. Learning about environmental challenges and making earth-friendly choices are important steps. You can assist endangered animals—close to home and around the globe.

In this bamboo forest, fill in the blanks to reveal words related to giant pandas.

AT BIRTH, GIANT PANDAS ONLY WEIGH ABOUT FOUR OUNCES (113 G)!

1 F_res_

2 _am_o_

3 _ian_

4 _h_na

5 Ge_t_e

6 _o_ser_a_ion

7 _ou_tai_s

8 Co_ri_or

9 E_da_ge_ed

10 H_bit_t