

Key stage 2

Pupil A – Piece A: a non-chronological report

Context: pupils examined examples of non-chronological report writing, before selecting and researching their own animal species to report on.

Pandas

The giant panda is part of the bear species originally from China. Their black and white pattern makes them easy to distinguish from their cousins—the red panda. In recent years, the number of giant pandas has decreased rapidly: with only 1864 remaining in the wild and less than 600 in captivity.

Diet

A panda's diet consists predominantly of bamboo roots, of which they eat 26-84 pounds ~~of~~ per day. Containing many nutrients, bamboo roots are a good source rich in sustenance. Around 10% of a panda's diet is from other forms of nourishment, such as small rodents, although this ~~isn't~~ is not by choice: during the hottest summer months (July and August), bamboo roots are scarce due to drought and the panda must turn to alternatives. These black and white mammals drink an average of 5 litres of water per day and this is increasing: the effects of climate change are resulting in climbing temperatures and dehydration poses a real modern-day threat.

Cubs drink milk from ~~fr~~ their mothers, with those in captivity drinking an alternative milk mixture composed of cow and sheep milk. Since their teeth have not yet formed, a cub* is prohibited from

eating bamboo and instead can only supplement their milk intake with soft options such as marshmallow root and grass.

Habitat

The panda's primary habitat is in the forests of south China. Historically, the forests found in this region have been ideal and panda populations have thrived. However, in more recent decades, the forests have become overpopulated, seeing pandas pushed to the fringes of nearby towns and villages which has angered the human inhabitants.

Consequently, this led to a culling of wild pandas in the 1990s, the overhunting of which saw a steep decline in numbers. In 2010, the Chinese government passed new laws designed to protect the panda population and since then, numbers have been rising steadily.

Adaptions

Every panda must adapt to suit the environment surrounding them. When it is winter, the temperature drops to around -1°C and in the summer it rises to a peak of 40°C . When the weather changes the pandas have to adapt to suit it. In the winter, the bamboo hardens, so the mammals grow large molar teeth to crush the bamboo sticks. Pandas normally have thick coats of fur - in the winter their coats get even thicker as the temperature drops.

Predators

When the panda cubs are first born, they are helpless which consequently makes them simple

prey. Most land animals living in the vicinity feast on these innocent cubs, including snow leopards, feral dogs, yellow-throated martens and the Asian black bear. The only non-land animal who may pounce on the cubs are eagles, who pick them up in their beaks, then fly them back to their nests to devour them there.

As the pandas grow, they stop being prey and begin to be predators. Small rodents and pikas, eaten by grown pandas are caught as a result of a technique the bears use known as paw-holing. Pandas reach down into the burrow of the small mammals to retrieve them with their sharp claws, piercing them deeply and killing them almost instantly.

Life Cycle

Baby pandas are born alive, white and helpless, also weighing very little (100g). They start to develop their black and white pattern after a month: they begin crawling at three months. At six months, their teeth are fully developed, so they can start eating bamboo roots with ease.

At 2 years, the pandas grow in independence and consequently leave their mothers at this age. They start breeding at 4 and 6 years (females 4, males 6), and their gestation period lasts 3 to 5 months.

Due to the weather being the warmest and most suitable for the cubs, their cubs are predominantly born in August.

In the wild, pandas are able to live between 15 and 20 years. Conversely in captivity they can live up to 20-30 years as there are less

dangers encountered^{or}. At the end of their lives, they can weigh between 70-120kg.

Key stage 2

Pupil A – Piece B: dialogue between 2 characters

Context: pupils examined an extract containing dialogue from 'Prince Caspian' by C.S. Lewis and then selected a title of their own. They chose 2 characters and imagined an argument between them to write as a dialogue.

As the Gryffindor Quidditch team strolled onto the training field, they were stunned to find that the Slytherins were already there, flying around on their new Nimbus 2000s. Gryffindor's captain, Wood, shouted at the opposing team to get off; they had booked out the field. As they descended from the sky, Harry's enemy, Malfoy, approached him with the snarly, sinister ^{look} that was permanently plastered on his face.

"You're still on the team?" Malfoy sneered at Harry in his usual obnoxious voice.

"At least I got in on pure talent and didn't have to use Daddy's money to buy my way in," Harry spat back, anger bubbling up inside of him.

Malfoy's smirk quickly evaporated at the statement but was soon replaced with an even more smug grin.

"So you've noticed our new rides," Malfoy chuckled, flashing off his broom. "These are far ~~more~~ better than your Nimbus 1000 or any of the brooms your little group has."

"You don't need to have expensive brooms to be a good team," Harry addressed confidently, his arms firmly folded across his chest.

"Oh really! That's your excuse," he mocked. "Why