

Activity 3

Giant Panda Diorama

Objective & Overview:

Students will learn about the giant panda and its habitat by creating a diorama of this animal in its temperate forest home.

Teacher Background Information:

Where do wild giant pandas live?

Giant pandas live in deciduous and coniferous forests with bamboo, at elevations between 5,000 and 10,000 feet. In these rocky, hilly, and wooded habitats, they often scramble over rocks and fallen trees or down or across cliff faces. They also climb and rest in trees. Often cloudy and misty, these mountain forests receive a lot of rain and snow—up to 40 inches per year.

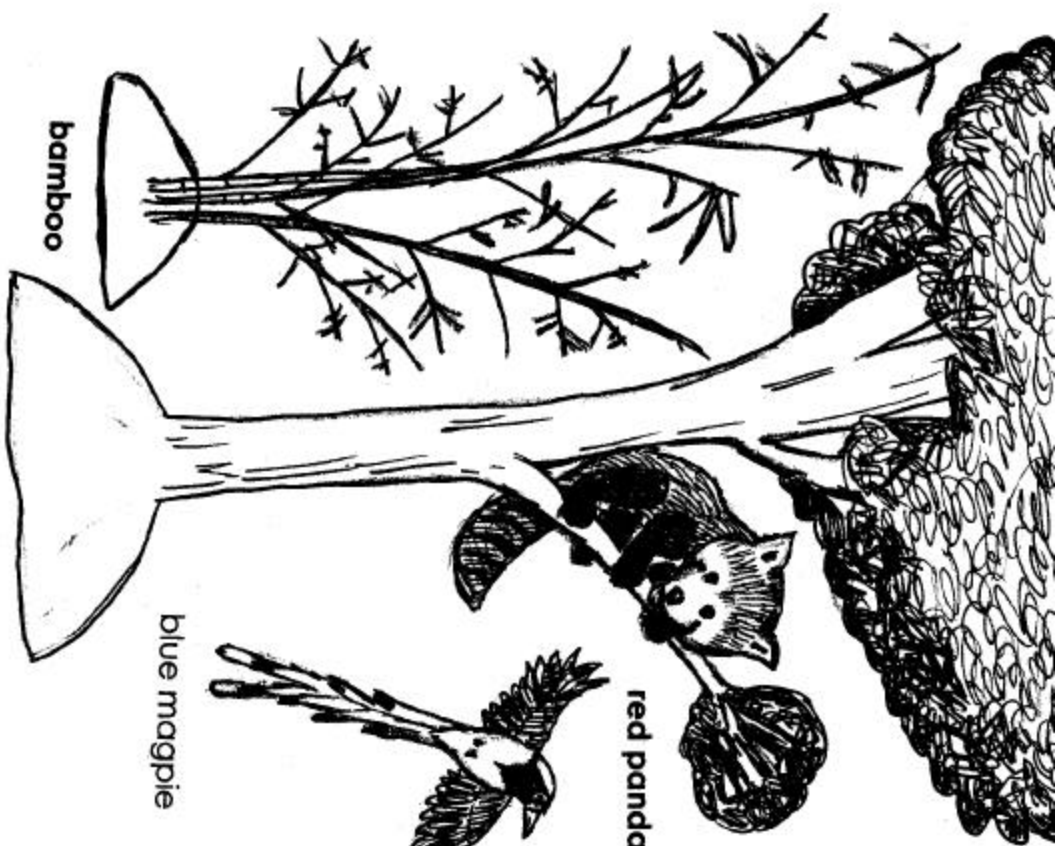
Materials:

- empty shoe box
- string
- child-safe wire or pipe cleaners
- glue/paste
- clear tape
- dried grass and leaves
- crayons
- diorama color and cut page

Directions:

1. Explain to students a bit about giant pandas' temperate forest habitat, which in some ways is very similar to the mountain forests of our nearby Appalachians. In others, such as the large bamboo stands, it is different. Talk about some of the different animal and plants that share giant panda habitat.
2. Explain to your students that they will be creating mini habitats for giant pandas and that they should try to make sure that there is plenty of cover and food for the pandas.
3. Take your children outside and give them some time to gather dried grass and dead leaves to embellish their panda dioramas.
4. Back in the classroom, set your students up with all of their materials and explain the various things they can do to build their diorama:
 - color in the Diorama Color and Cut Page and cut out the various components.
 - bend pipe cleaners or wire to provide backing support for standing paper pieces once these pieces are placed in the diorama and taped together.
 - string can be strung from diorama ceiling (tied through a hole or taped) so that birds can hang and appear to be flying.
 - leaves and grasses can be glued to the back and side walls of the diorama to give a woody feel, and to the floor as well, once other parts (cut-out animals, trees, bamboos) are installed.

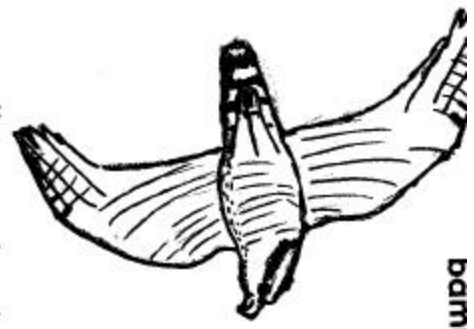
5. After the students finish their dioramas, have all class members display these together on a common table or windowsills. Students can compare the different habitats created by their peers using basically the same materials.



bamboo

red panda

blue magpie



northern goshawk

bamboo



Giant Panda



takin



Oriental pit viper



golden pheasant



giant salamander