

Activity 7

Giant Panda Poster or Mural

Objective & Overview:

Working in pairs or as a class, students will research, draw, and paint a poster or mural highlighting the plight of the giant panda, with strong emphasis on the importance of its forest habitat. This activity will increase their awareness of environmental issues while they work on a fun, creative project.

Teacher Background Information:

Giant pandas can survive, but only if people let them. In the struggle to save giant pandas, people must appreciate the importance of conserving wildlife. Giant pandas and many other animals and plants live in temperate forests, lush habitats fed by frequent rains. This activity will highlight this important habitat, which occurs in China, many European countries, the eastern United States, and many other mild-weather areas.

Knowledge is power. The more local leaders, students, residents, scientists--and students--know about giant pandas, the better equipped we will be to protect giant pandas and keep their populations stable or growing.

Materials:

- large mural paper or poster paper
- pencils
- paints
- smocks
- references for pictures of Chinese plants and animals

Directions:

1. Decide whether you would prefer to have the class work on one large mural or team up in pairs to make smaller posters.
2. Refer to the following list of "Some Wildlife Found in or near Giant Panda Habitat" and hit the books to find useful pictures of some of these plants and animals for your students to use as models.
3. Assign student pairs sections of the mural or put pairs to work on their posters. First, students should understand the theme: saving giant pandas and their temperate forest home. Ask students to design (think about, sketch in pencil) and then paint their project. Explain why giant pandas cannot survive without people's support and the importance of public awareness in gaining support for saving these irreplaceable animals. Students should include on their poster or mural section a catchy phrase such as "Save Giant Pandas Now!" They should make sure to include at least three panda neighbors (including specific plants and animals).
4. Once finished, allow time for students to reflect upon their work and check out their classmates' masterpieces.

Some Wildlife Found in or near Giant Panda Habitat

(Names in **bold** indicate species exhibited at the Zoo.)

Animals

Amphibians

giant salamander

agile frog

Reptiles

Oriental pit viper

Doria's ground skink

Birds

golden pheasant

Temminck's tragopan

northern goshawk

blue magpie

brown dipper

Mammals

musk deer

white-lipped deer

takin

Pallas's cat

Eurasian lynx

Asiatic wild dog (dhole)

Asiatic black bear

red panda

golden snub-nosed monkey

Plants

Grasses

bamboo (various species)

Shrubs

rhododendron

viburnum

butterfly bush

hydrangea

juniper

Trees

dogwood

sassafras

maple

birch

larch

poplar

cherry

apple

oak

basswood

fir

hemlock

spruce

dawn redwood