

1869



# 1869

Do you think Chinese people had seen giant pandas before 1869?

1929



# 1929

In the 1800's and early 1900's, museums sent out hunters to shoot the giant pandas. Why?



# 1936

Do you think it was unusual for a woman to go on an expedition to find a giant panda in 1936?

1936



# 1961

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has changed their logo over the years. Which one is the current logo?



A



B



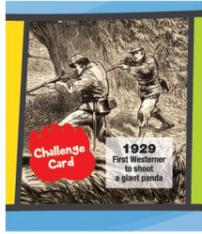
C



D

1961





# 1929

## First Westerners to shoot a giant panda

- Theodore Jr. and Kermit Roosevelt were the first Westerners to shoot a giant panda.
- Museums at this time paid hunters to find specimens.
- Natural history collections were important to study the animals.



# 1869

## First Westerner to discover giant pandas

- Armand David discovered the giant panda.
- Armand David also discovered many other animals and plants.
- It is surprising that the giant panda was unknown until 1869 and hard to imagine that the Chinese would not have known about it. However there is no definite proof of any sightings.



# 1961

## World Wildlife Fund choose the giant panda for their logo

The WWF wanted a symbol which everyone from different countries could understand, which could easily be reduced in size and would look good when printed in black and white.



D

1961



B

1970



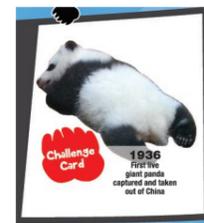
A

1986



C

2000



# 1936

## First live giant panda captured and taken out of China

- The explorer William Harkness set out to capture the first live giant panda. Unfortunately William died of cancer at 34 years old.
- William's wife, Ruth Harkness decided to complete her husband's work. This was very unusual for a woman at this time.
- The first captured giant panda went to Brookfield Zoo, Chicago.
- Nowadays zoos do not take animals from the wild.



# 1972

When the leaders of America and China met in 1972 to sign an agreement, China gave America two giant pandas. Why?

1972

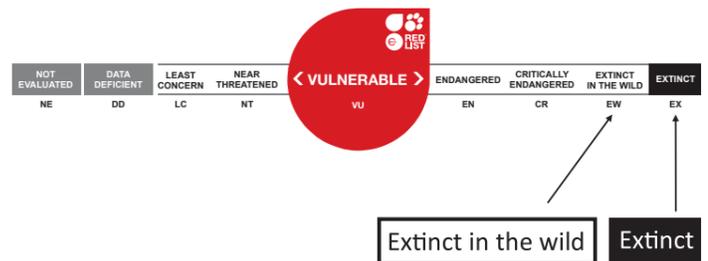


# 1990

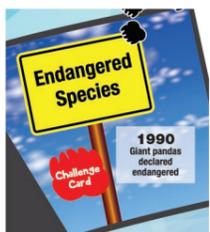
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) uses this scale to provide information on endangered species. This one is for giant pandas. They are classed as vulnerable.\*

What is the difference between Extinct and Extinct in the wild?

1990



\* Giant pandas were classed as Vulnerable in 2016.



# 1990

## The IUCN Scale

**Near Threatened** - species which may have a risk of extinction in the future.

**Vulnerable** - species which face a *high risk* of extinction in the future.

**Endangered** - species which face a *very high risk* of extinction in the *near future*.

**Critically Endangered** - species which face an *extremely high risk* of extinction in the *immediate future*.

## History of IUCN classification of giant pandas

1965 Very rare but believed to be stable and increasing

1986 Rare (different words were used in the scale before 1990)

1990 Endangered

2016 Vulnerable



# 1992

In order to save the giant panda a management plan was agreed between conservation organisations and China. Why?

1992





# 1990

## Giant pandas declared endangered

- The international Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, provides information on endangered species.
- It identifies species at risk of extinction.
- The giant panda is classed as vulnerable - look at the card with the title 'The IUCN Scale'.
- Being extinct means there are no more of the species left. Extinct in the wild means the species still exist in zoos.
- Zoos are an important part of conservation.



# 1972

## Panda Diplomacy

- Giant pandas are important to China.
- Since the 1950's China has given giant pandas as political gifts but in 1972 there was a significant gift of two pandas to the USA.
- Richard Nixon and Mao Zedong shook hands on 29th February 1972 when China gave USA two giant pandas as a symbol of the new friendship.



# 1992

## Management plan for the giant panda

- There are many things to do in order to try to save the giant panda so it was important to make a plan to manage the project.
- A management plan for the giant pandas was launched between WWF and the Chinese Ministry of Forestry.
- The plan is called the 'National Conservation Programme for the Giant Panda and its Habitat'.
- For example, one of the things stated in the plan was that an additional 14 nature reserves had to be established.



# 1996

Some zoos across the world are lucky enough to have giant pandas. Are the giant pandas owned by the zoo or by China?

1996



# 2006

Can you think of any problems involved in reintroducing captive giant pandas to the wild?

2006



# 2011

Tian 甜 means sweet.

Yang 阳 means sun.

Guang 光 means ray.

The first pandas to arrive at Edinburgh Zoo in 2011, were Tiantian and Yangguang. What do their names mean?

甜甜 阳光

2011

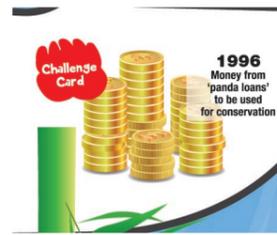




# 2006

## Reintroduction to the wild

- Xiang Xiang was the first giant panda to be reintroduced to the wild.
- Xiang Xiang went through 3 years training in many semi-wild enclosures.
- He was released to the wild in April 2006. He was tracked and monitored. He built a den, foraged for food but unfortunately was found dead in February 2007. He is likely to have been attacked by other animals.
- Since then there have been more successful reintroductions and the work still continues.



# 1996

## Money from 'panda loans' to be used for conservation

In the panda loan agreement it states:

- any giant panda on loan to other zoos and any of its young belong to China.
- any money made from giant pandas in the zoos has to go to the conservation of giant pandas, especially conservation in the wild.



# 2011

## Giant pandas arrive at Edinburgh Zoo

- Tiantian and Yangguang arrived at Edinburgh Zoo on 4th December 2011.
- Literally Tiantian means 'sweet' but this is translated as Sweetie.
- Literally Yangguang means 'sun ray' and this is translated as Sunshine.