

GRADE 8 English Language Arts Reading and Responding: Lesson 24

Read aloud to the students the material that is printed in **boldface type** inside the boxes. Information in regular type inside the boxes and all information outside the boxes should **not** be read to students. Possible student responses are included in parentheses after the questions.

Any directions that ask you to do something, such as to turn to a page or hand out materials to students, will have an arrow symbol (\rightleftarrows) by them.

Optional: At some point during the lesson, you may read the passage aloud so students can hear fluent, expressive reading and the correct pronunciation of unfamiliar words. You may read the passage aloud at any point during the lesson as you feel appropriate. The decision to read the passage aloud should depend on student needs, the degree of text difficulty, and the particular lesson.

Purpose of Lesson 24:

In this lesson, the tutor and students will

- read a nonfiction passage taken from the newspaper,
- practice answering multiple choice questions, and
- practice answering short answer questions.

Equipment/Materials Needed:

- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 24-1
- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 24-2
- pencils

Introduction:

Today you will apply reading, thinking, and test-taking strategies by reading another nonfiction passage taken from the newspaper and answering a few questions about it. This passage is a continuation of the passage about giant pandas you read in the previous lesson.

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 24-1.

Notice that today's passage has two sections. Be sure to read each section carefully and make mental notes to help you remember information needed to answer questions.

Now you are ready to begin reading the passage. Read carefully and then answer the questions on this worksheet.

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 24-2.

After students have finished reading the passage and completed the worksheet, go over the answers together. Discuss the reasons for eliminating incorrect choices as well as the reasons for choosing correct answers.

Answers to Student Worksheet 24-2 (Key words in the question and correct answers are highlighted.)

1. Which of the following statements about the **giant panda population** is **true**?
 - A. The population of giant pandas is steadily increasing.
 - B. The giant panda population is increasing in the natural habitat of pandas, but decreasing in other parts of the world.
 - C. Little effort has gone toward increasing the giant panda population.
 - D. Increasing the giant panda population has proven to be very difficult.**

2. In the fourth paragraph, the second sentence says, *Considering that the average salary in China is less than \$1000.00 a year, the lure for poaching is obvious.* What does **lure** mean?
 - A. tendency
 - B. attraction**
 - C. penalty
 - D. cost

3. Which of the following statements about the **giant panda breeding program** is **true**?
 - A. The United States and China are the only two countries involved.
 - B. China is the only country involved.
 - C. The Chinese government has little interest in the program.
 - D. Several countries throughout the world are involved.**

4. Explain **two ways** giant panda bears are **different from other bears**.
 - ◆ Pandas do not hibernate; other bears do.
 - ◆ Pandas are not thought to have permanent dens.

5. Describe two plans for saving the giant panda from extinction.
 - ◆ Giant panda breeding program
 - ◆ Possibility of using cloning

6. Give **two reasons** for the **decreasing giant panda population**.
 - ◆ Poachers can make money by killing pandas and selling their furs.
 - ◆ Female pandas give birth only once a year; although two cubs are often born, only one usually survives.

Giant Pandas On the Brink of Extinction

*by Educational Services
The Advocate, Mon., April 17, 2000*

Giant Pandas are between four and five feet tall and between five and six feet long. Adult males weigh, on average, about 220 lbs. Females average about 180 lbs.

Pandas are thought to be solitary animals. Females are receptive to males for only a few days of the year and give birth once a year. Though two cubs are often born, it is rare that both survive. At birth, cubs weigh only about five ounces. For the first few weeks after birth, the mother carries her cub around in her mouth. Unlike most other bears, pandas do not hibernate and are thought to have no permanent dens. Pandas are very reclusive and are of little threat to humans.

The dense mountain forests of western and southwestern China are the natural habitats of giant pandas. The forests receive torrential rains and are shrouded in heavy mists throughout the year.

Panda pelts are extremely valuable, fetching up to \$20,000 each in China's illegal fur trade. Considering that the average salary in China is less than \$1,000 a year, the lure for poaching is obvious. In an attempt to curb poaching, the Chinese government imposes life sentences, even death, on persons convicted of killing giant pandas.

Related Concerns

- ◆ Until recently, giant pandas were classified as members of the raccoon family. Now, the giant panda is considered a subfamily (Ailuropodae) within the bear family.
- ◆ In the last decade, more people have reached the summit of Mt. Everest than have seen a giant panda in the wild.
- ◆ The San Diego Zoo houses the only pair of giant pandas in the United States. The pandas are on loan from China as part of its panda-breeding program. A number of zoos throughout the world are participating in the program. Last year, eight cubs were born in captivity worldwide, but only three survived. One of the survivors was the cub born to the San Diego pandas.
- ◆ Two of China's top geneticists are examining the possibility of using cloning to save the giant panda from extinction.

Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 24-2

NAME _____

1. Which of the following statements about the giant panda population is true?
 - A. The population of giant pandas is steadily increasing.
 - B. The giant panda population is increasing in the natural habitat of pandas, but decreasing in other parts of the world.
 - C. Little effort has gone toward increasing the giant panda population.
 - D. Increasing the giant panda population has proven to be very difficult.

2. In the fourth paragraph, the second sentence says, *Considering that the average salary in China is less than \$1000.00 a year, the lure for poaching is obvious.* What does *lure* mean?
 - A. tendency
 - B. attraction
 - C. penalty
 - D. cost

3. Which of the following statements about the giant panda breeding program is *true*?
 - A. The United States and China are the only two countries involved.
 - B. China is the only country involved.
 - C. The Chinese government has little interest in the program.
 - D. Several countries throughout the world are involved.

4. Explain two ways giant panda bears are different from other bears.

5. Describe two plans for saving the giant panda from extinction.

6. Give two reasons for the decreasing giant panda population.