

# Tian Tian a Giant Panda

A Reading A-Z Level I Leveled Reader  
Word Count: 240



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LEVELED READER • I

# Tian Tian a Giant Panda



**SAMPLE**

Written by Melanie Shepherd

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## Glossary

- bamboo** a tropical plant with long woody stems and long leaves (p. 7)
- bear** large animal with lots of fur and a short tail (p. 4)
- forests** large areas of land covered with lots of trees (p. 6)
- giant panda** bear from China that eats bamboo and has black and white fur (p. 3)
- special** for a certain thing or purpose (p. 5)
- survive** to stay alive (p. 7)
- weighs** to have a certain heaviness or weight (p. 9)
- wild** living or growing in nature (p. 6)

12

11

Tian Tian and Mei Xiang play at the zoo.  
Tian Tian stays strong by playing.  
He plays with toys.  
He also plays in trees.  
Do you like to play?  
How is Tian Tian like you?



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Level 1 Leveled Reader  
Tian Tian, a Giant Panda

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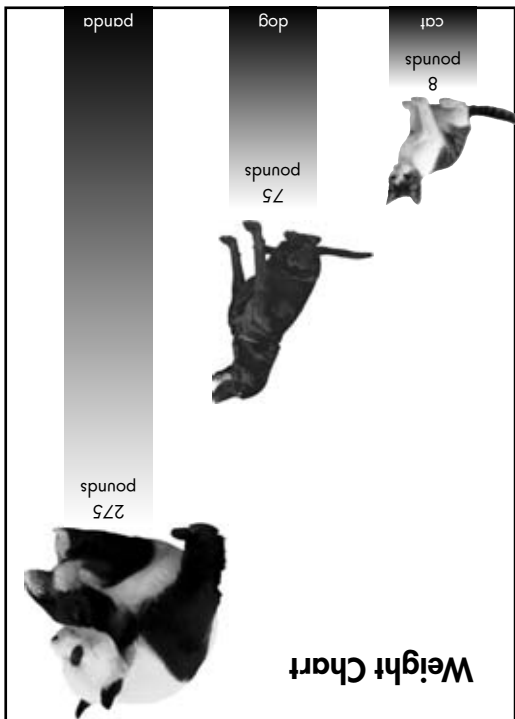
Tian Tian's baby Tai Shan, top, with his mom Mei Xiang.

Tian Tian turned eight years old in 2005.  
 He became a father in 2005, too.  
 His baby was born at the zoo.  
 The baby is growing strong like Tian Tian.



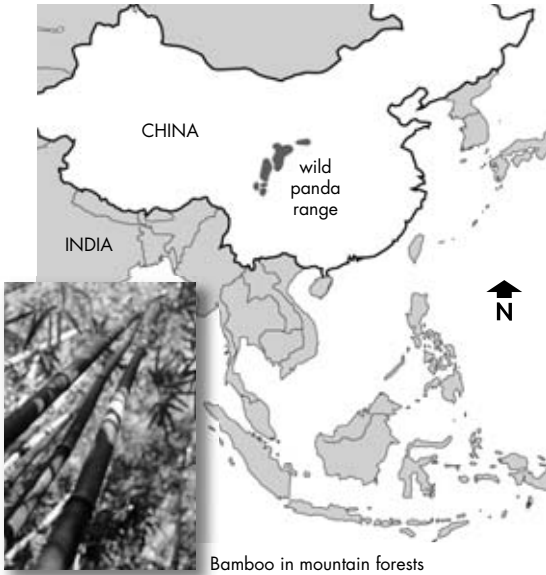
This is Tian Tian.  
 He is a **giant panda**.  
 Most giant pandas have black  
 and white fur like Tian Tian.

Tian Tian is very big and strong.  
 He **weighs** 275 pounds.  
 That's as much as 34 cats.



Tian Tian has black fur around his eyes.  
 Raccoons have black fur around  
 their eyes, too.  
 But Tian Tian is not a raccoon.  
 He is a **bear**.  
 All giant pandas are bears.





All giant pandas eat a plant called **bamboo**.

Bamboo grows in the mountain forests in China.

More people are cutting down the forests.

Without bamboo, giant pandas cannot **survive**.

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China is the only place where **wild** giant pandas live. They live in mountain **forests**. There are only about 1,000 wild giant pandas in China.

5 The place where Tian Tian was born in China. He now lives at a zoo in the United States. He came to the United States when he was three years old. In China, he lived at a **special** place for pandas.



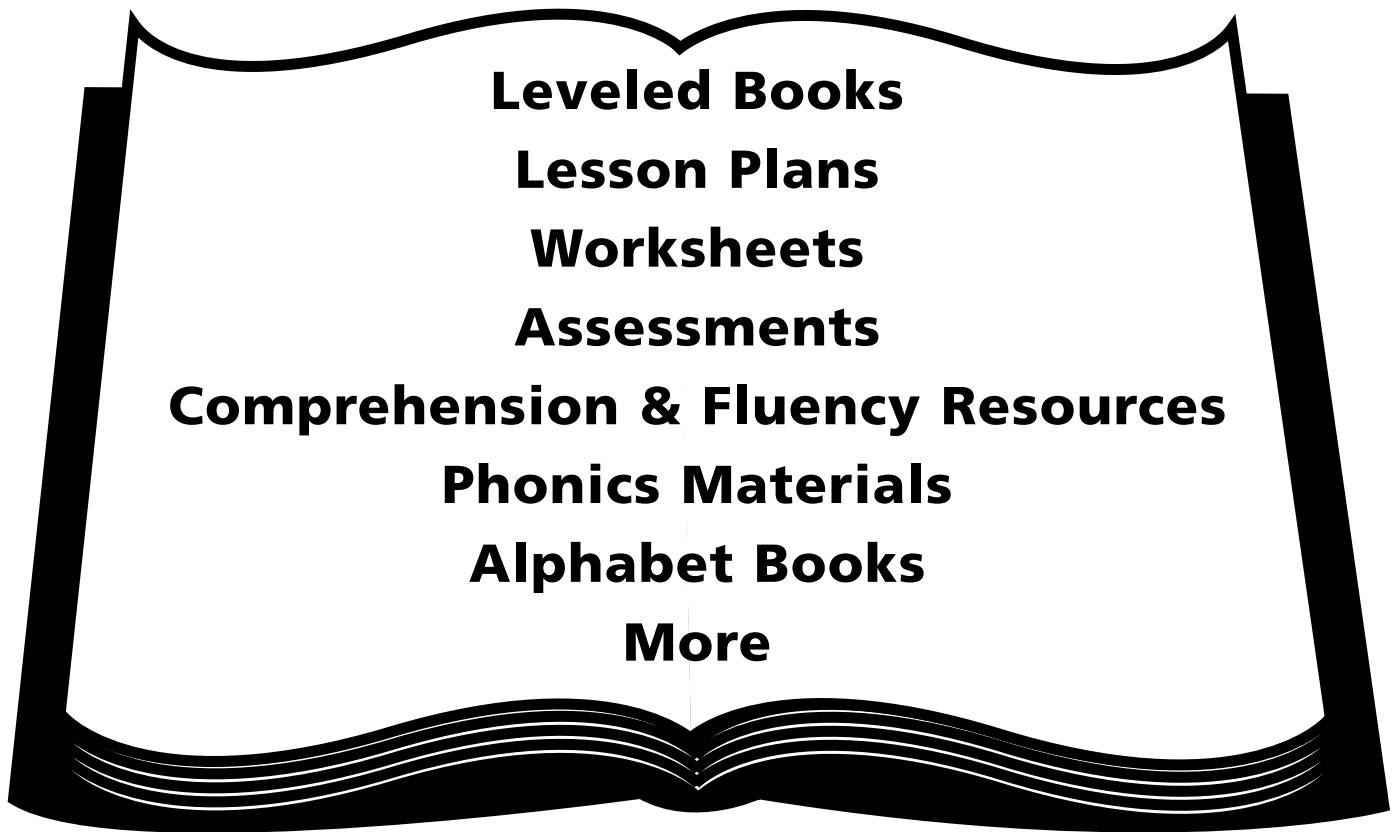
Tian Tian and his mate Mei Xiang eat.

8 Tian Tian eats bamboo. He can eat 40 pounds of bamboo every day. He also eats biscuits. He eats special fruit popicles, too.

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