



Assignment

Explain Why the Source Has Useful/Helpful Information

Topic: Pandas in Captivity

Your Assignment:

Your class recently went on a field trip to a local zoo. You saw a family of pandas living there in captivity, and you learned that the baby panda had been born there.

When your class returns from the zoo, your classmates begin to share what they think about animals in captivity. Some people believe that keeping pandas in captivity is a good idea, but others seem to disagree. Your teacher decides that this seems to be a “hot” topic, so he asks you to write a paper supporting your opinion.

In your paper, you will take a side as to whether you think breeding and raising pandas in captivity is a good thing or not. Your paper will be read by your classmates. Make sure you clearly state your opinion and write several paragraphs supporting your opinion with reasons and details from the sources. Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the sources. Be sure to give the source title or number for the details or facts you use.

In Part 2, you will write an opinion piece using information you have read. (You will not do Part 2 as part of this task because this is just practice.)

Directions for Beginning:

You will now review several sources. You may review the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:

After reviewing the research sources, use the rest of the time in Part 1 to answer the questions about them. Your answers to the questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the information you have read, which should help you write your opinion piece.

You may refer back to your scratch paper to review your notes when you think it would be helpful. Answer the questions in the spaces below the items.

Your written notes will be available to you in Part 1 and Part 2 of the performance task. (You will not do Part 2 as part of this task because this is just practice.)

Sources for the Performance Task:

Source #1

You have found a “Time for Kids” article about the challenges of breeding and raising pandas in captivity:

Too Much Cuteness: How Much is Too Much?

By Sully Dragonovan

Many zoos around the world have tiny residents the cost a fortune and don’t give too much return on that investment! Pandas are sometimes raised in captivity, in situations where they are taken care of by people and live in places like zoos. There are actually only approximately 1600 pandas living, and 300 of those pandas are in captivity. To breed and raise pandas in captivity is very expensive. It is also not an easy thing to do, and some people think that because of these things that it is not wise to bother with raising baby pandas in zoos.

Pandas are very expensive to have and raise! They have been called, “the most expensive animal in the world” because China charges two million dollars per panda for the “lease” of the animal to the zoo. It charges an additional \$600,000 per year for a baby panda! That is a lot of money! It would take a lot of visitors paying a lot of money to enter the zoo to pay the annual cost of having a baby panda. On top of that, a baby panda can’t be alone at the zoo. It would need to have its mother with it (and maybe even the father). That is millions of dollars a year to raise a panda or two!

Even if one can justify the money, it is important to know that it is not easy to raise a baby panda. The panda needs to be fed and cared for by people and its mother. It has to have the right type and amount of nutrition to survive and thrive. It also has to be kept warm. It is the job of the zookeepers and the mother panda to make sure that the baby has what it needs. In the wild, when more than one panda is born (a set of two is called “twins”), one of the baby pandas usually does not survive because the mother can only take care of one baby at a time. Although twin pandas have a better chance of both surviving in captivity, it is a juggling act for the mother and the people!

It is expensive and hard to raise baby pandas in captivity. Ultimately for the pandas to not be in danger of becoming extinct, they would need to be thriving in the outdoors. A few pandas in captivity is not going to help the species survive. Meanwhile, as pandas are being bred and raised in zoos around the world, the bamboo forests where they roam naturally, their habitats, are being destroyed by people in the name of progress. Raising a few expensive pandas in the zoos won’t actually solve the pandas’ real problems, so it basically isn’t worth the effort.

Source #2

You have found a chart that shows how many pandas have been born and are being raised in zoos and breeding centers in China:

Zoos and Breeding Centers in China that House Giant Pandas

Name of Facility	Name and/or Number of Pandas	Other Facts
Beijing Zoo	Ming-Ming (died 2011)	Ming-Ming was the first panda born in captivity.
Shanghai Zoo	Not available	
Bifengxia Panda Base, Ya'an	Mei Sheng, Hua Mei, Tai Shan, Su Lin, Zhen Zhen, and Fu Lon	Fu Long was born in Austria.
Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, Chengdu, Sichuan	Twelve cubs born in 2006 Xiong Bang and Mei Lan	Xiong Bang was born in Japan. Mei Lan was born in the United States.
China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda at the Wolong National Nature Reserve, Sichuan	Seventeen cubs born in 2006	
Chime-Long Paradise Amusement Park	Triplets born in 2014	Triplets are rare for pandas. Triplets means a set of three.
Ocean Park, Hong Kong	An An, Le Le, and Ying Ying	
Macau Giant Panda Pavillion	Kai Kai and Xin Xin	

Dailian Forest Zoo	Fei Yun, Cai Zhen, and Jin Hu	
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Source #3

You have found another article in Scholastic News about the benefits of keeping some pandas in captivity:

Saving Pandas from Extinction- One Bundle of Panda Joy at a Time

By Andrew Vu

Who can resist a baby wrapped in a blanket? Especially when it is a tiny baby panda sipping a bottle! Pandas are incredible creatures with an uncertain future. Raising pandas in captivity, in zoos around the world, provides pandas with the chance to avoid extinction. The awareness of the pandas' need for protection is raised by visitors learning more about them when they visit zoos and wildlife centers. People need to know that pandas are in the zoos to help them survive extinction because breeding and survival is difficult in the wild. In order to save the pandas, it will take more than just admiring their cuteness.

Raising baby pandas in captivity helps the species have a chance at evading extinction. There are only 1600 or so pandas in the world, and 300 of them live in zoos. The zoos help raise baby pandas, and sometimes they are reintroduced to the wild. If a mother has more than one panda baby, the caretakers at the zoo can help make sure that both babies survive. In the wild, one of the babies would most likely die. With each surviving panda, the species moves farther away from the danger of extinction.

When visiting pandas in the zoos, regular people become more aware of the needs of pandas and how they can support their survival. Some people have never seen a panda in person. They don't know their great beauty and majesty first-hand. Visiting the pandas in the zoo, and falling in love with the babies, helps the pandas' cause because people may decide to donate money toward saving pandas. At least they are less likely to cause them harm in the wild if they should ever encounter them in their natural habitat. The

survival of pandas is in the hands of the people who help breed, raise, and increase awareness of them- one little bundle at a time!

Answer this Question:

Which source has the most useful information about the need for pandas to be bred and raised in captivity? Explain why this source has the most useful information about the need for pandas to be bred and raised in captivity. Support your explanation with two details or examples from the source.

Your Response:
