

Kung Fu Panda Is Me



Panda's Homeland

Xiaoyun Luo



Australia Multiculture Press



591.5:502.74 - Охрана животных

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission from the publisher.

Kung Fu Panda Is Me—Panda's Homeland

- © Beijing World Publishing Corporation
- © Australia Multiculture Press
- Level 2, 39 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

First edition 2011

ISBN 978-1-921678-71-4

Printed in China

2013/46	Alisher Navoiy
2013/46	nomidagi
3278	O'zbekiston MK

PVII
15562

They Call Me the Living Fossil

Reserves—Our Home

Our Homeland in the Earthquake

The Call of the Wild



A close-up photograph of a giant panda sitting in a lush green bamboo forest. The panda is holding a bundle of bamboo leaves in its mouth and is in the process of eating. The panda's black and white fur is clearly visible, and its black eye patches are prominent. The background is filled with dense bamboo foliage, creating a natural and serene environment.

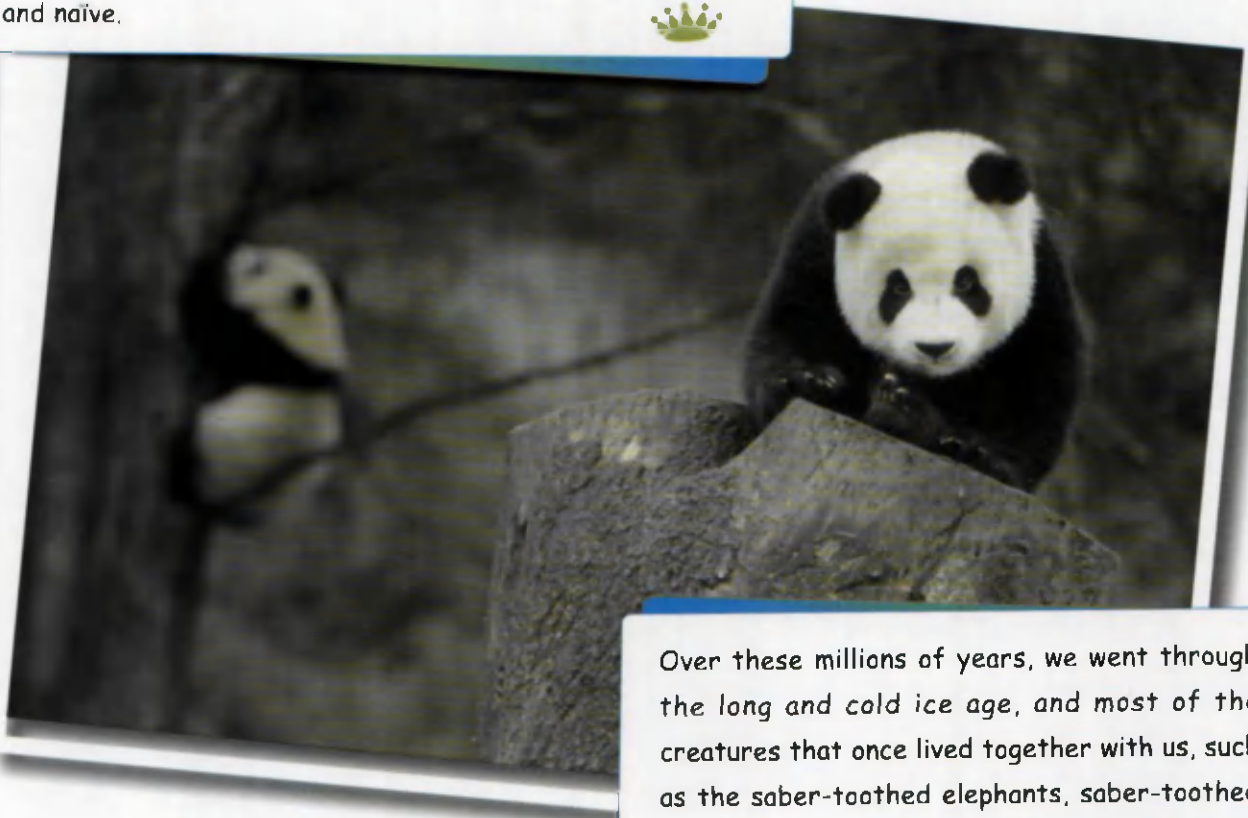
**1. They Call Me
the Living Fossil**





Kung Fu Panda Is Me

Long before eight million years ago, when you human beings were still apes, our pandas' ancestors, *Ailuropus lufengensis*, had already lived in the swamps nearby forests located in what is now Yunnan Province. After millions of years of evolution, we've turned to be black and white, cute and naïve.




Over these millions of years, we went through the long and cold ice age, and most of the creatures that once lived together with us, such as the saber-toothed elephants, saber-toothed tigers, great apes, and so on, died out. But we survived. In another word, we are the winners and "living fossils" in the animal kingdom.




Panda's Homeland



In the long process of evolution, our diet changed a lot. We were dangerous predators before, but now, we have adapted to nature and have turned to eat bamboo for a living. 



But don't get me wrong, eating bamboo is never an easy thing! Bamboo is tough to digest, but we have a very good stomach to process those tough bamboo fibers. Well, sometimes we want to try the old dish, look, that panda seems to be recalling our old times while chewing on a bone! 



Another problem of eating bamboo is unavoidable: bamboo dies after blossoming and fructifying, and it will take several years for new bamboo to grow. During that time, we would suffer from starvation. In the past, we could migrate to other places and look for young bamboo, but since our habitat has been fragmented by your beings' activities nowadays, we can not migrate any more, so we need human's help to get through the crisis of "bamboo's blossom".



Panda's Homeland



For many reasons, such as our long-term pregnancy, low fertility rates, destroyed habitats, and so on, we almost died out. Under the guidance of helpful people and organizations, our numbers have recovered to above 1,600, but we are still a rare and endangered species.





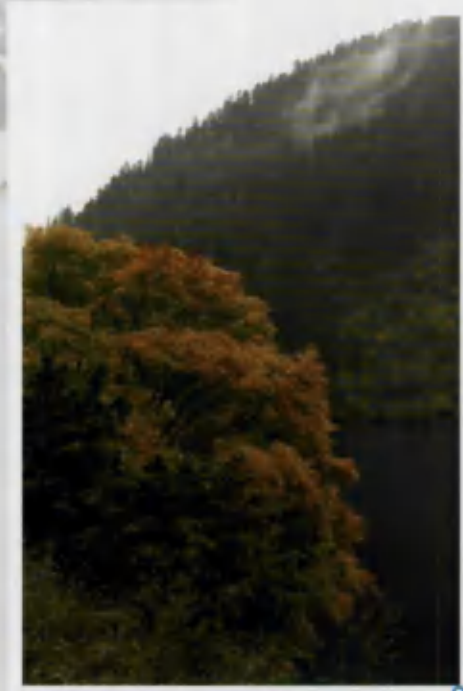
2. Reserves—Our Home



There are many beautiful reserves in the mountains of Sichuan, Shanxi, and Gansu provinces and those are our home. Reserves keep our homes safe from harmful industry, and we live here with thousands of other wild animals.



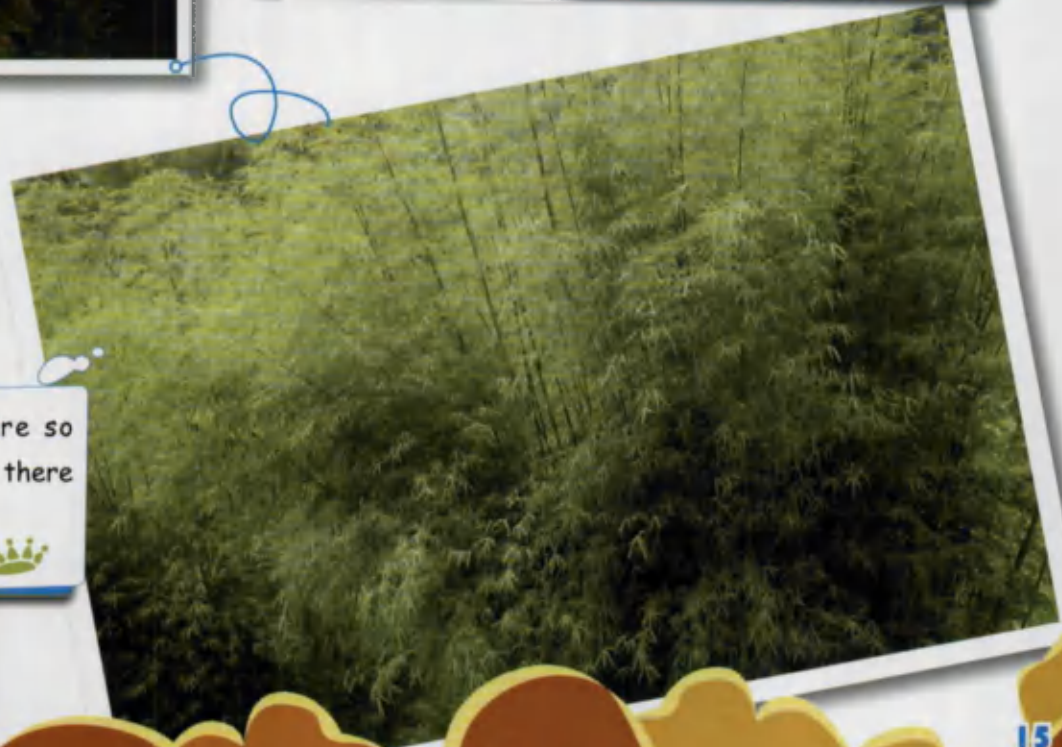
Panda's Homeland



In the well-known **Jiuzhaigou**, there are quiet and beautiful snow-capped mountains, forests, lakes, lively waterfalls and beaches, really magnificent fairytale landscapes. Also, it is one of our homelands. In the past, Jiuzhaigou was over-exploited, and primitive forests were cut into lumber with hacksaws and axes, and this "fairytale" was at the brink of destruction. The number of pandas around there at that time also reduced dramatically. Eventually, the exploitation stopped, and a national reserve was built there, which saved it, and thus, we could enjoy its magnificent beauty.



The bamboo forests are so green. For our pandas, is there better scene than this?



Fenging is the biggest reserve in the Qinling mountain range, it is also one of our happy homelands. "Dandan" the first ever grey-white panda in recorded history, was found just here.



The core area of the reserve is called "Xihe" (West River) including the birthplace and upstream areas of West River. There are 38 streams that branch off of the main stream.



Our neighbors, the antelopes, often visit and protect the "Sanxian Feng" and "Dacongping" camps, so they are often called the "Antelope Villages".




(Taken by Yangge Yong)




Baishui River Nature Reserve in Gansu is the biggest of all the reserves. It is located in the climate transition zone, and has complex terrain, so there are a large group of plants and animals. Baima Tibetans who have a long history live here too. They are good at singing and dancing, very generous, and often protect us, so they are our good neighbors and friends.



013/46
3248
Alisher Navoiy
nomidagi
O'zbekiston MK

After leaving Chengdu and stepping into Wenchuan, and walking through Mujiangping which is located at an altitude of 1,200 meters, you arrive at the most famous Panda Nature Reserve—**Wolong**. 



It is rich in flora and fauna, the holy land of the plant and animal scientists in the world, and also the first panda nature reserve in China. People call it "the homeland of pandas". For us, it is indeed a vast and charming land. 



Panda's Homeland



Wolong is located in a complex terrain of the mountain range, which forms a variety of small natural environments containing many ancient and rare plant groups. Here is one of the richest environments in Asia, and you can find many kinds of plants, no matter the simple or complex, the common or rare, the modern or ancient. Those plants provide us and other animals a wonderful environment.



Kung Fu Panda Is Me

In 1978, on the Ox Head Mountain which has an altitude of 2,500 meters, is located the world's first panda wildlife observation station, Wuyipeng. In 1980, the Chinese government and the World Wildlife Foundation signed an agreement and decided to build the "China Giant Panda Protection and Research Center" in Wolong.

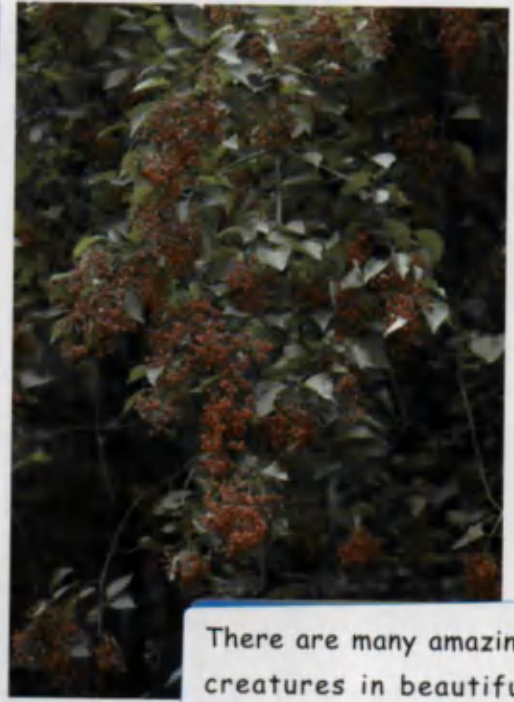


It can be said that Panda protection is closely related to Wolong which is the pandas' homeland. Pandas are one of the most glaring one in thousands of flora and fauna of Wolong, and also the soul of Wolong.



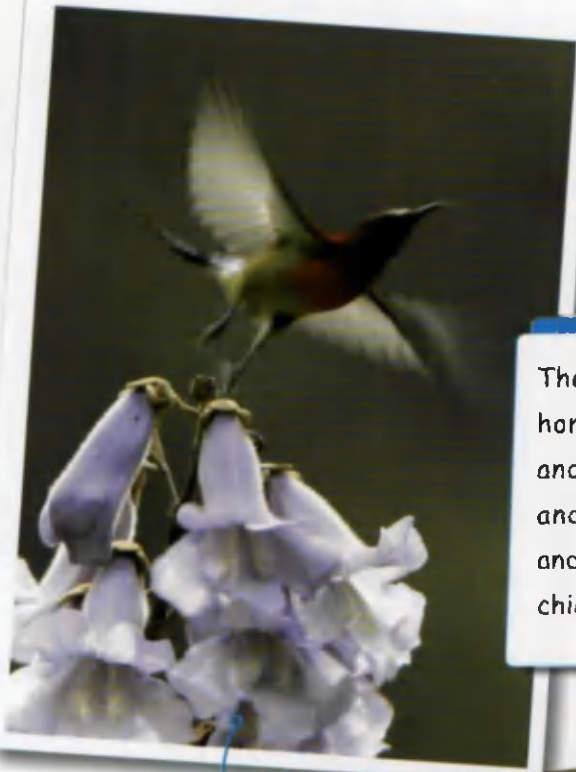
Panda's Homeland

The first panda reserve was built in Wolong, so do you know where the pandas were first found? The answer is Fengtongzhai of Baoxing County in Ya'an district; A French man named David found pandas there, and took the specimens back to the Paris Museum of Natural History. It was the first time that a giant panda was known around the world aside from the local residents of course.



There are many amazing creatures in beautiful Fengtongzhai.






(Taken by Yange Yong)

There are many other kinds of animals enjoying our homeland, including large herbivores such as takins and gorals, strong carnivores such as brown bears and leopards, little animals such as cute monkeys and rhizomes, beautiful birds such as the blue-horse chicken, blood pheasants and the sun birds.




(Taken by Yange Yong)

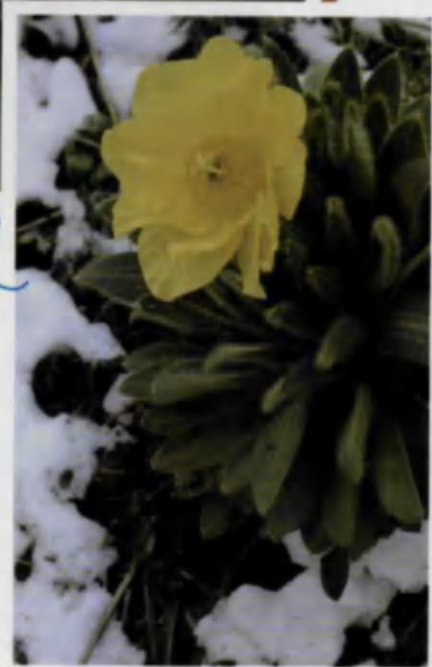


 (Taken by Yange Yong)




 (Taken by Yange Yong)

Besides those friendly animals, there are many beautiful plants staying with us, such as lacquer trees, chestnuts, oak linens, saw-tooth oaks, pines, firs, rhododendrons, Cypripediums ... Of course, bamboo too!



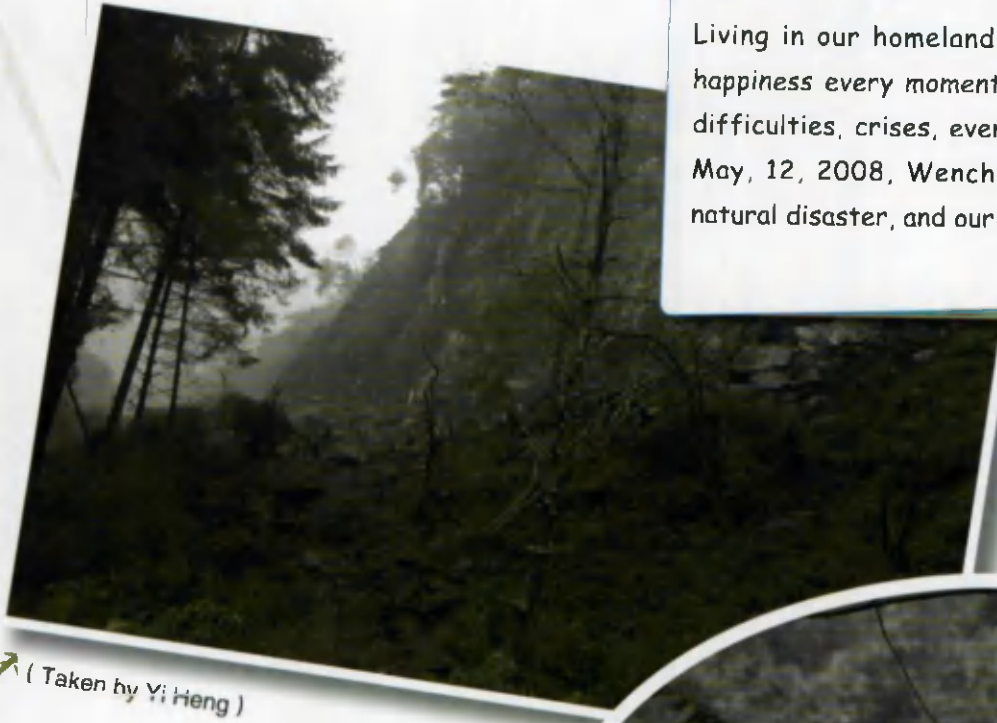




3. Our Homeland in the Earthquake

(Taken by Wei Li)

Kung Fu Panda Is Me



(Taken by Yi Heng)

Living in our homeland does not mean enjoying happiness every moment. Once a while, there are difficulties, crises, even disasters happening. On May, 12, 2008, Wenchuan encountered a rare, natural disaster, and our homeland was damaged.



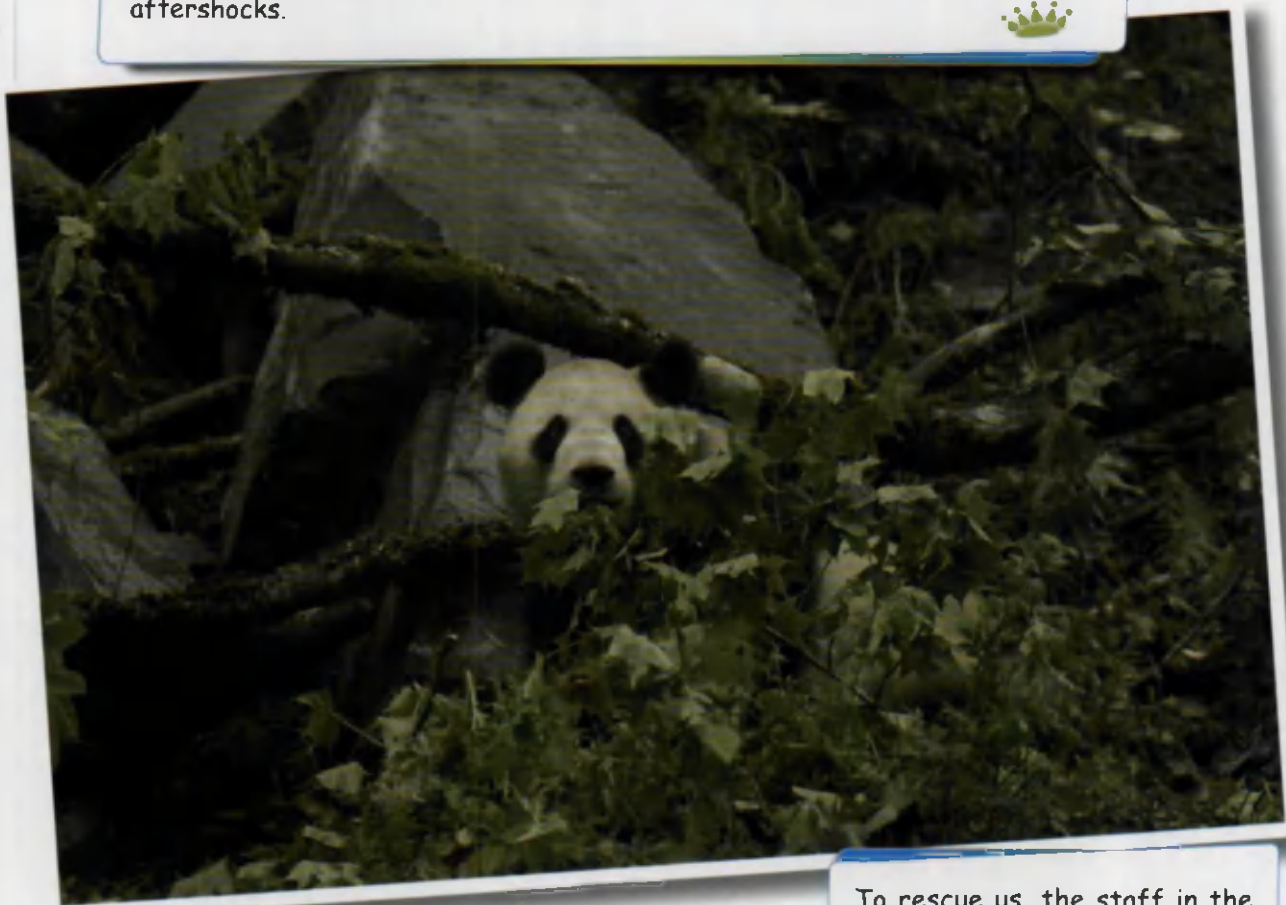
In the afternoon of May, 12, when we were playing or napping, an earthquake occurred in Wenchuan which is close to Wolong reserve. The strong earthquake shook the ground suddenly, mountains collapsed, rocks and mud poured down, and houses collapsed... The Panda Research Center was blocked by mountains, and we were scared to death, just running away everywhere.



(Taken by Wei Li)

Panda's Homeland

Some of us ran to the mountains, some to the riverside, some to the trees... even Tuantuan and Yuanyuan who were supposed to go to Taiwan were scared and ran out of the reserve. We were facing even more danger because of the aftershocks.



📷 (Taken by Yi Heng)

To rescue us, the staff in the Panda Research Center refused to evacuate there and kept looking for us until the evening and they took 14 cubs while leaving.







(Taken by Yi Heng)




(Taken by Yi Heng)


Guoguo ran over to the collapsed stones and was found wandering around there during the aftershocks. The aftershocks shook the rocks and the staff lifted Guoguo up and away to safety. 


Other pandas were found one by one, and sent to the safe temporary shelter. The last escaped panda was found in May, 26th, and the staff finally relieved. 

Panda's Homeland

Staff of the Center and police transferred us to a safe place and brought us food and drink. It was tough during the earthquake, but we always had something to eat. 



 (Taken by Wei Li)

Cut off from the outside, the staff had very limited food, but they saved water for 14 cubs, and made sure to keep them healthy. 



They also found some toys for us, and played with us every day. We gradually relaxed.



↗ (Taken by Wei Li)

On the fourth day after the earthquake, we finally got contact with the outside. They called their family to say they were safe, and some choppers arrived and fetched the wounded. It is said that nobody died during the earthquake, and we pandas are lucky animals. Well, I don't really understand that, it's obvious that they worked hard to keep us safe...



↗ (Taken by Wei Li)



Panda's Homeland



➤ (Taken by Wei Li)



➤ (Taken by Wei Li)

Under their efforts, the reserve was restored to some extent. By May 16 some of us turned to be active again, such as this bunch of pandas. Oh, right, they were chosen to attend the Beijing Olympic Games.



Of course, there are also some timid pandas that are still nervous, and they respond violently to any unusual sounds, such as trying to climb the wall...



Kung Fu Panda Is Me



The road connecting Wolong with the outside finally went through in May, 17, and many supplies were sent here, such as bamboo!



(Taken by Wei Li)



But considering that our homeland had been damaged, the staff began to send us to the outside around May, 18. Look, the first group is those 8 "Olympic Games Panda Babies".



(Taken by Wei Li)

Panda's Homeland

We finally got rid of fears and recovered under their good care. Those 8 pandas adjusted to Beijing very fast, and made friends with the staff in Beijing, no wonder people address us as "friendship ambassadors"!



(Taken by Yi Heng)

We stayed in our homeland and moved on. Do you still remember Guoguo? She gave birth to a pair of twins!







4. *The Call of the Wild*

We belong to the wild, and although we enjoy a peaceful life in the panda reserve, we still will go back to the wild finally, and survive by our own strength to keep our species stronger.



For that, scientists and the staff work very hard on the preparation. In order to help us adjust to the wild, they even wear "panda costumes" like us while seeing us in order not to disturb us.



This mommy looks weird...



Panda's  Homeland

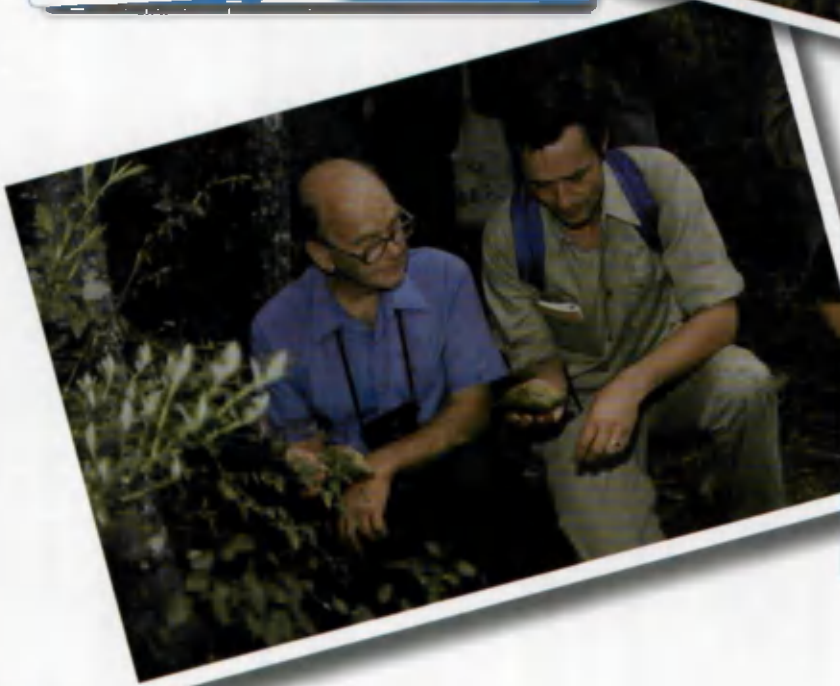
She hugs me
weirdly...



Hmm, now it
is right...



Either protection or "survival training in the wild", all of those efforts on helping our species grows bigger have earned a lot of attention and cooperation in the world. For example, chairman Scott of WWF (World Wild Fund For Nature) and Dr. Schaller have visited us in Wolong before.



Chairman Scott designed the standard of WWF based on our images, and Dr. Schaller brought advanced equipment, radio transmitters and receivers, for us. Wearing these radio collars makes it easy for humans to observe our life without disturbing us.



Panda's Homeland



And our homelands become better and better day by day, better for every being to live and enjoy. How wonderful it is!



Hey, how's our homeland? Is it beautiful?
Welcome to our home!

Want to know more about my world? Go ahead and read the other books in the "Kung Fu Panda Is Me" series!

Panda's Growth Diary
Panda Kindergarten
Pandas in the Wild
Panda Stars—Tuantuan and Yuanyuan
Panda's Family