



Worksheet 4, page 1. Reading: *The Wolong Nature Reserve*

Read the article about the Wolong Nature Reserve. Then answer the questions.

The Wolong Nature Reserve

In the **mid-twentieth century**, the pandas of the world were in danger of becoming **extinct**. When the Chinese government **recognized** this sad fact, it **created** a special place to **protect** the pandas: the Wolong Nature Reserve. This is a large area in the south of China. It is in the area where all the pandas of the world now live, **except** for those in zoos in a few large cities. Pandas used to live **throughout** East Asia, but now they live only in this part of China.

Their natural **habitat** is smaller than it used to be and the panda's main food – **bamboo** – is not as plentiful as it used to be.

The panda's habitat **shrank** because people were cutting down the **forests** where the pandas lived, and using the trees for wood. People were also changing the forests into land for farms.

The forests used to cover a **vast** area, but a lot of the land was no **longer** forest. The pandas were living in patches of forests, between farms and areas where people were cutting down all the trees.

Now on the Wolong reserve -- and other reserves like it -- the government protects the forests. And here, scientists **encourage** the breeding of pandas, and take excellent care of **newborn** pandas. When the famous Wolong reserve started in 1963, pandas were nearly extinct. Today, the population of pandas living in the wild is about 1,600.



Wolong is the birthplace of Tian Tian and Mei Xiang, the two pandas that made a new home at Washington, D.C.'s National Zoo.

shrank = the past tense of *shrink*



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Choose the correct answers.

1. What is this passage about?
 - a. Protecting pandas.
 - b. Capturing pandas.
2. What happened to the panda population in the 20th century?
 - a. The panda population grew.
 - b. The panda population shrank.
3. Which sentence is true?
 - a. All pandas in their natural habitat are in China now.
 - b. All pandas in their natural habitat are in several Asian countries now.
4. Why did the pandas' habitat get smaller?
 - a. People were cutting down the bamboo forests.
 - b. People were eating more and more bamboo.
5. What does "*The government encouraged the breeding of pandas*" mean?
 - a. The government fed the pandas bread and vegetables because bamboo was not plentiful.
 - b. The government helped the pandas to be healthy and to have baby pandas.
6. Which sentence is true about the Wolong Nature Reserve?
 - a. Only a few pandas used to live in the reserve, but now there are many.
 - b. The panda population at the Wolong Nature Reserve is shrinking.