



Worksheet 1. Reading: *Giant Pandas*

Read the passage about the pandas in the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Then answer the questions.



Giant Pandas

Tian Tian and Mei Xiang are the National Zoo's second pair of giant pandas. Both were born in China, and they came to the National Zoo in 2000. That's Tian Tian on the left, and Mei Xiang on the right. It is hard to tell the adult giant

pandas apart, but they have a few **differences**:

Tian Tian, the male, was born in August, 1997. His name means "more and more." Tian Tian has black "**knee socks**." The black **band** across his **shoulders narrows** in the middle. His eye **patches** have the shape of **kidney beans**, and he has two black **dots** across the **bridge** of his nose. In spring 2007, he **weighed** about 275 pounds.

Mei Xiang, the female, was born in July, 1998. Her name means "beautiful **fragrance**." She has black **hip-high "stockings"** extending up her **hind** legs, and the black **band** across her shoulders is wider in the middle than Tian's. Her eye patches are **oval**, and a **pale** black band runs across the bridge of her nose.



In spring 2007, she weighed about 230 pounds.

The first **offspring** of the two pandas was born early in the morning on July 9, 2005. His name is Tai Shan, and it means "peaceful mountain." At his first physical examination by the zoo veterinarians, he weighed 1.82 pounds and had a body length of 12 inches. In late April 2007, he weighed 125 pounds. This photo on the left is of little Tai Shan and his mother.



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Circle T if the statement is true. Circle F if the statement is false.

1. T / F Tian Tian and Mei Xiang are pandas.
2. T / F They were born at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.
3. T / F Tian Tian is older than Mei Xiang.
4. T / F Tian Tian has a black band across the bridge of his nose.
5. T / F Mei Xiang has black "socks" on her front legs.
6. T / F Mei Xiang has oval eye patches.
7. T / F A new baby panda was born at the National Zoo in 2005.
8. T / F In the spring of 2007, the baby panda weighed 225 pounds.