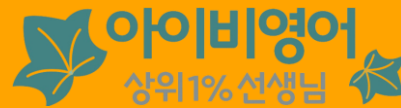


VOA News Explains

Video Discussion Lessons





01

Before COVID-19 Vaccines, China Used Pandas to Aid Diplomatic Efforts

[Click here to watch the video](#)

INTRODUCTION

Long before China began using N95 masks and COVID-19 vaccines as part of its diplomatic efforts, it used pandas. The furry bears have been used by China to generate goodwill with other countries for more than 1,000 years.

I. Choose the correct answer.

01

For a long time, China has used pandas to improve its relations with other countries. This practice *hit its stride* during the Cold War.

If something *hits its stride*, _____.

- A. people start to do it in an easy and confident way
- B. it causes problems that people have never had before

02

"It's going to be a great story," Nixon said of the pandas' *impending* US arrival.

We use "*impending*" before nouns to describe something that _____.

- A. makes people excited
- B. is going to happen very soon

03

The animals bring zoos millions in *revenue* each year.

"*Revenue*" and " _____ " are similar in meaning.

- A. visitors
- B. earnings

I. Choose the correct answer.

04

In 2010, President Barack Obama *defied* China's wishes by meeting the Dalai Lama.

"*Defy*" is similar to "_____."

- A. ignore
- B. discuss

05

Pandas in the southern U.S. city of Memphis, Tennessee have come under *scrutiny*.

If something comes under *scrutiny*, _____.

- A. people check it in a careful way
- B. it becomes very popular in a short time

06

The land areas where pandas live have become more *restricted* because of farming and development.

In the sentence above, "*restricted*" means "_____."

- A. limited
- B. changed

II. Fill in the boxes with the correct letters. (Note: The missing words are all used in the video.)



685 A.D.

Empress Wu Zetian of the
1) dynasty gave two
pandas to Japan.



1941

China sent two pandas to
the Bronx Zoo to thank the
USA for its help during
2) .



1950s

Mao Zedong sent pandas to
3) and North
Korea — China's Communist
allies.



1972

The 4)
in Washington, USA received
two giant pandas from
China.



1974

Two pandas arrived at the
5) Zoo as a
gift from the Chinese
government.



1984

The Chinese government
switched from gifting
pandas to 6)
them.

III. Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

01

Based on the video, what is one reason why China changed its panda policy in 1984?

02

How long is a panda loan period for zoos around the world today? How much do zoos worldwide usually have to pay for this loan period?

03

Zoos spend about 500,000 U.S. dollars a year to care for pandas. Why are pandas very expensive to care for? Give THREE reasons.

Based on a 2013 Oxford University study:

04

- What types of countries did China give pandas?
- Why would China take back pandas from other countries?



Xiao Qi Ji

One of the three panda bears at the National Zoo that will be returned to China at the end of 2023

IV. Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

01

In your opinion, why have pandas been effective in helping China's diplomatic efforts?

02

Have you ever seen a panda bear in person?

- If yes, where did you see one? What was it like? How did you feel when you saw it, and why?
- If no, where is the nearest place you can see a panda? Do you plan to visit it soon? Explain your answer.



03

Pandas are considered vulnerable species today. This means there is still a chance that they will become extinct in the future. What is one animal in your country that could become extinct someday? What factors can cause its extinction?

04

In your opinion, what or who has been aiding your country's diplomatic efforts? Give at least one specific person, animal, or thing. Explain your answer.