

Native to the mountain forests of southwest China, the giant panda is one of the most beloved animals in the world. As the human population in China continues to grow, pandas' habitat gets taken over by development, pushing them into smaller and less livable areas. One of the interesting evolutionary traits of the panda is their protruding wrist bone that acts like a thumb. Due to the low nutritional value of bamboo, pandas need to eat 10–20 kg (20–40 lb.) a day. If one type of bamboo is destroyed by development, it can leave the pandas with nothing to eat during the time it normally blooms, increasing the risk of starvation. Giant pandas are identified by their distinctive black and white coloring. This helps the pandas hold bamboo while they munch on it with their strong molar teeth.