

Grade 5
English Language Arts/Literacy
Research Simulation Task

2018 Released Items

2018 Released Items: Grade 5 Research Simulation Task

The Research Simulation Task requires students to analyze an informational topic through several articles or multimedia stimuli. Students read and respond to a series of questions and synthesize information from multiple sources in order to write an analytic essay.

The 2018 blueprint for grade 4 Research Simulation Task includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items as well as one Prose Constructed Response prompt.

Included in this document:

- Answer key and standards alignment
- PDFs of each item with the associated text(s)

Additional related materials not included in this document:

- Sample scored student responses with annotations and practice papers
- Scoring Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring
- English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2015 Summative Assessment

**Release Items Answer and Alignment Document
ELA/Literacy: Grade 5**

Text Type: RST		
Passage(s): Giant Pandas / "Helping Giant Pandas" / from "Giant Panda Cubs Give		
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards / Evidence
2196_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: B	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.4.1 L 5.4.1
2197_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A, E Part B: B, E	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.2.1 RI 5.2.2 RI 5.8.2
2851_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: D	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.4.1 L 5.4.1
2852_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: C, E	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.8.1 RI 5.8.2
2201_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: C	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.4.1 L 5.4.1
2205_A	Item Type: TECR Part A: D Part B: Select two words from the article that help the reader understand the meaning of estimate . Pandas at Risk Scientists estimate that fewer than 2,000 giant pandas live in the mountains of central China. About another 200 pandas live in zoos and breeding stations, mostly in China . Giant pandas are among the most rare of the world's living mammals.	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.4.1 L 5.4.1

2207_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: B	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.3.2
2203_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C, D Part B: C *This item type is no longer used	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.3.3
2208	Item Type: PCR Refer to Grade 5 Scoring Rubric	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.3.2 RI 5.9.1
2202	Item Type: EBSR (additional item) Part A: B, C *This item type is no longer used	RI 5.1.1 RI 5.2.2

Today you will research giant pandas. You will read the article “Giant Pandas.” Then you will read the article “Helping Giant Pandas” and a passage from the article “Giant Panda Cubs Give Hope to an Endangered Species.” As you review these sources, you will gather information and answer questions about giant pandas so you can write an essay.

Read the article “Giant Pandas.” Then answer the questions.

Giant Pandas

Life Out in the Wild

- 1** An adult giant panda spends much of its day resting, seeking food, and eating. Unlike other bears from temperate climates, giant pandas do not hibernate. Until recently, scientists thought giant pandas spent most of their lives alone. They believed that males and females met only during the breeding season.
- 2** Recent studies paint a different picture. Small groups of giant pandas share a large territory and sometimes meet outside the breeding season. Much remains to be learned about the secret lives of these animals. Every new discovery helps scientists in their battle to save this species.

Giving Birth in Captivity

- 3** Giant pandas are also born in captivity. Captive breeding centers were started because giant pandas are so endangered. The giant pandas’ naturally slow breeding rate prevents a population from recovering quickly from illegal hunting, habitat loss, and other human-related causes of death. The captive breeding centers provide a protected place for giant pandas to breed and for baby pandas to grow up. One of the most famous centers for breeding baby pandas is the Wolong Nature Reserve.

What to do with Twins

- 4** When pandas are born in captivity, they often have twins. Panda mothers will only care for one baby at a time. This means the keepers at the breeding center have to help care for the babies and keep them healthy. They feed

the babies milk and keep them warm in incubators. The mother panda still gets to take care of both babies, but she cares for them one at a time.

Growing Up in Captivity

- 5** In captivity, young giant pandas remain together and have a chance to play. In the wild, it would be very rare for a young giant panda to meet another cub. This is because mother pandas live alone rather than in groups with other pandas. When panda cubs play, they appear to have lots of fun. But they are also learning important skills. For example, researchers hide snacks in hanging plastic tubes to teach cubs how to search for food.



Mr. Huang Yan checks a two-week-old baby panda to make sure it is developing properly. The baby is beginning to show its black coloring.

Branching Out From Bamboo

- 6** Giant pandas are now becoming easier to raise in captivity. This is because their keepers have discovered what foods to feed them. Cubs get a bowl of special milk for breakfast and lunch until they are about two years old. The milk is made by boiling rice and adding vitamins. Between the age of seven and nine months, panda cubs begin to snack on tender bamboo shoots. Other foods captive giant pandas eat include sugar cane, carrots, apples, and sweet potatoes. They also eat “panda bread” made from a mixture of ground bamboo, grains, and assorted vitamins and minerals.

Living Up to Their Name

- 7 Giant panda cubs grow quickly. Every few days, the staff at the breeding center must weigh them to check on their development. That includes lifting them onto a scale. This isn't an easy job when the panda weighs almost as much as you do! No wonder they're called *giant* pandas!



Giant panda cubs in captivity are given a special milk porridge twice a day. Their keepers make sure they are getting plenty to eat and that they are growing well.

Pandas and People

- 8 In China, people and giant pandas have been living together for thousands of years. But China's human population has been steadily growing. It is now the largest in the world. More people means more land is needed for farming. It also means more forests are cut for wood to build and heat houses. Loss of habitat in lowland areas has forced pandas to live only in the mountains.

Habitat Loss

- 9 The most damaging result of development has been that it has divided the panda's habitat into little islands of forest. Today, many pandas are isolated in these small sections of forest, because they will cross into areas where humans live. The result is that the giant pandas cannot connect with one another to mate and have babies.

Make Room for Pandas

- 10** People are trying to help the giant panda survive by creating protected areas and breeding centers. China has 37 official areas for protecting the giant panda. All of these areas are in mountainous southwestern China. The Wolong Nature Reserve is one of the most famous.



The protected temperate forest of

Wolong Nature Reserve is a critical habitat for the survival of the endangered giant panda.

The Role of the Wolong Nature Reserve

- 11** Wolong is famous for its giant panda breeding center called the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda. Wolong's temperate forest is an extraordinary and beautiful place full of other rare mammals including the red panda, beautiful birds, insects, and plants found nowhere else in the world. The giant panda is an umbrella species. Protecting the

panda protects the habitat for many other wild plants and animals that are critical to the biodiversity of the forest.

“Giant Pandas” from Globio. Copyright © by Globio. Used by permission.

Photo 1: © Gerry Ellis/Minden Pictures

Photos 2 and 3: © Katherine Feng/Minden Pictures

1. Part A

What is the meaning of the phrase **in captivity** as it is used in the article "Giant Pandas"?

- A. in an area where animal safety is maintained
- B. in the wild where many species make their home
- C. in an incubator where the growth of cubs is fostered
- D. in the mountains where small sections of forest are found

Part B

Which quotation from the article helps the reader understand the meaning of **in captivity**?

- A ". . . giant pandas share a large territory and sometimes meet outside the breeding season." (paragraph 2)
- B ". . . a protected place for giant pandas to breed and for baby pandas to grow up." (paragraph 3)
- C ". . . feed the babies milk and keep them warm in incubators." (paragraph 4)
- D ". . . has forced pandas to live only in the mountains." (paragraph 8)

2. Part A

Which **two** statements express main ideas of the article “Giant Pandas”?

- A. Giant pandas face many challenges to survival.
- B. The Wolong Nature Reserve is one of the most famous centers for breeding baby pandas.
- C. Studies have shown it is necessary to teach giant panda mothers how to care for their cubs.
- D. Giant pandas and the people in China have lived together for many years without any problems.
- E. Scientists and other people have taken many steps to help giant pandas survive.
- F. The differences between adult giant pandas and baby giant pandas make it difficult to know the best ways to expand the panda population.

Part B

Which **two** quotations from the article provide details that support the two main ideas from Part A?

- A. “Unlike other bears from temperate climates, giant pandas do not hibernate.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “The giant pandas’ naturally slow breeding rate prevents a population from recovering quickly from illegal hunting, habitat loss, and other human-related causes of death.” (paragraph 3)
- C. “When pandas are born in captivity, they often have twins.” (paragraph 4)
- D. “In the wild, it would be very rare for a young giant panda to meet another cub.” (paragraph 5)
- E. “Giant pandas are now becoming easier to raise in captivity. This is because their keepers have discovered what foods to feed them.” (paragraph 6)
- F. “Wolong’s temperate forest is an extraordinary and beautiful place full of other rare mammals including the red panda, beautiful birds, insects, and plants found nowhere else in the world.” (paragraph 11)

3. Part A

What does the word **isolated** mean as it is used in paragraph 9 of “Giant Pandas”?

- A. upset
- B. alone
- C. passive
- D. endangered

Part B

Which quotation helps the reader understand the meaning of **isolated**?

- A. “. . . lowland areas has forced pandas to live only in the mountains.”
(paragraph 8)
- B. “The most damaging result of development . . .” (paragraph 9)
- C. “. . . because they will cross into areas where humans live.”
(paragraph 9)
- D. “. . . giant pandas cannot connect with one another. . . .” (paragraph 9)

Read the article “Helping Giant Pandas.” Then answer the questions.

Helping Giant Pandas

1 People the world over love the black-and-white bears known as pandas. The giant panda is a national treasure in China, and these rare bears are protected by law. Today, only around 1,600 giant pandas survive on Earth. Scientists are working together to find solutions to the problems these beautiful bears face.

2 With so few pandas in the wild, scientists are trying to understand the ways the bears find one another for breeding. Researchers have put special collars on some wild pandas. The collars send signals that the researchers can track. This helps them understand where the pandas are—it’s difficult to study an animal that is as hard to locate as a panda! Scientists are also recording sounds pandas make in zoos. Researchers are even testing the scents pandas leave on trees and rocks to try to understand what messages these animals leave with smell.

3 Bamboo is the most important plant in a panda’s life, because that is what it eats! Giant pandas eat four or five kinds of bamboo that grow in their home range. Sometimes their food supply is low because after bamboo produces seeds, the entire plant dies. When that happens, pandas move to another area. But now, with humans taking up much of the panda’s habitat, pandas are often unable to move to another area and may starve. In some areas, humans have cleared forests to grow only one or two kinds of bamboo, but it is not the kind pandas need to survive.

4 Panda females use hollow tree stumps and stone caves as dens for raising their cubs. As forests are cleared for human uses, there are fewer dens available. San Diego Zoo researchers have been working with Chinese scientists to find out if putting man-made dens in the wild could help solve this problem.

5 Pandas only give birth every two years. Females give birth to one or two cubs, but often the mother can only care for one. China has some pandas in special places where they are cared for by humans. When a female panda gives birth to twins there, the keepers help raise them so both cubs can survive. This has helped the number of pandas in the world to grow.

“Helping Giant Pandas” from San Diego Zoo Global, copyright © by San Diego Zoo Global. Used by permission.

4. Part A

How does the author of “Helping Giant Pandas” support the idea that giant pandas need help?

- A. by describing the different obstacles giant pandas face
- B. by providing research about the ways scientists have helped giant pandas
- C. by describing what will happen to the giant pandas in the future
- D. by providing different opinions about how giant pandas should live

Part B

Which two quotations support the answer to Part A?

- A. “Bamboo is the most important plant in a panda’s life, because that is what it eats!” (paragraph 3)
- B. “Giant pandas eat four or five kinds of bamboo that grow in their home range.” (paragraph 3)
- C. “In some areas, humans have cleared forests to grow only one or two kinds of bamboo, but it is not the kind pandas need to survive.” (paragraph 3)
- D. “Panda females use hollow tree stumps and stone caves as dens for raising their cubs.” (paragraph 4)
- E. “As forests are cleared for human uses, there are fewer dens available.” (paragraph 4)
- F. “China has some pandas in special places where they are cared for by humans.” (paragraph 5)

5. Part A

What is the meaning of the word **range** as it is used in paragraph 3 of the article "Helping Giant Pandas"?

- A. territory
- B. continent
- C. zoo exhibit
- D. mountainous terrain

Part B

Which sentence from the article "Helping Giant Pandas" helps the reader understand the meaning of the word **range**?

- A. "Today, only around 1,600 giant pandas survive on Earth."
(paragraph 1)
- B. "Scientists are also recording sounds pandas make in zoos."
(paragraph 2)
- C. "When that happens, pandas move to another area." (paragraph 3)
- D. "China has some pandas in special places where they are cared for by humans." (paragraph 5)

Read the passage from the article “Giant Panda Cubs Give Hope to an Endangered Species.” Then answer the questions.

from “Giant Panda Cubs Give Hope to an Endangered Species”

by David George Gordon

Pandas at Risk

- 1** Scientists estimate that fewer than 2,000 giant pandas live in the mountains of central China. About another 200 pandas live in zoos and breeding stations, mostly in China. Giant pandas are among the most rare of the world’s living mammals.

Raising Babies

- 2** “Every newborn panda is important,” says Don Lindburg, leader of the giant panda research team at the San Diego Zoo. “After they have grown to adulthood, some of the captive-born bears could be released into the mountainous wilds,” he says. Those that mate and give birth to more cubs will help rebuild China’s perilously small population of wild pandas.
- 3** “Breeding giant pandas is no easy feat,” says Lindburg. Female giant pandas can produce cubs only once every two years. In the wild, an adult female may successfully raise five to eight cubs in her lifetime. By studying pandas in captivity, Lindburg and other scientists are discovering ways to improve the odds for the precious young pandas’ survival.
- 4** Giant pandas once wandered freely across China to its eastern coast and from the country’s mountaintops to the food-rich valleys below. But as more people made their homes in the valleys and began to farm the land, the naturally shy pandas lost a lot of their habitat and most of their food—the fresh stems, shoots, and leaves of wild bamboo plants.

Hope for the Future

- 5** Today conservation groups, scientists, zoo workers, and the Chinese government work to safeguard what remains of the pandas’ habitat. Many think that creating bamboo corridors—strips of undisturbed land through which pandas can comfortably wander and feed—are one hope for saving the

giant panda from extinction. These corridors would connect all of today's smaller panda reserves to create one larger habitat for all wild pandas.

From "Giant Panda Cubs Give Hope to an Endangered Species" by David George Gordon, copyright © by David George Gordon. Used by permission of National Geographic Stock.

6. Part A

What is the meaning of the word **estimate** as it is used in paragraph 1 of “Giant Panda Cubs Give Hope to an Endangered Species”?

- A. to state a fact
- B. to calculate exactly
- C. to choose from a set of given choices
- D. to make a guess based on information

Part B

Select **two** words from the article that help the reader understand the meaning of **estimate**.

Pandas at Risk

Scientists estimate that **fewer** than 2,000 giant pandas **live** in the mountains of central China. **About** another 200 pandas live in **zoos** and breeding stations, mostly in **China**. **Giant** pandas are among the most rare of the world’s living mammals.

7. Part A

How is the release of a giant panda into the wild related to the future of the giant panda population?

- A. It prevents population decline by adding additional pandas to the wild.
- B. It helps scientists learn more about the breeding habits of pandas.
- C. It results in more cubs being born and lessens the chances of the panda becoming extinct.
- D. It encourages more friendship between zoos and the countries that would like to establish a giant panda population.

Part B

Which paragraph from "Giant Panda Cubs Give Hope to an Endangered Species" helps the reader understand the relationship in Part A?

- A. paragraph 1
- B. paragraph 2
- C. paragraph 3
- D. paragraph 4

8. Part A

According to "Giant Pandas" and "Helping Giant Pandas," what are two ways human activities can cause problems for the giant panda?

- A. The giant panda is a national treasure in China and is protected by laws.
- B. Researchers are putting special collars on some wild pandas so the researchers can track the animals.
- C. Wood from the panda's habitat is harvested for homes or fuel, and the pandas are not able to move to different areas to get food.
- D. As many forests are cleared, there are fewer hollow tree stumps for mother pandas to use as dens for their cubs.
- E. Scientists are putting man-made dens in the wild, but mother pandas rarely use them to raise their cubs.
- F. There are some places in China where people care for baby pandas and provide the extra love and help they need.

Part B

Which paragraphs from "Helping Giant Pandas" support the answers to Part A?

- A. paragraphs 1 and 2
- B. paragraphs 2 and 3
- C. paragraphs 3 and 4
- D. paragraphs 4 and 5

9. Write an essay explaining what has happened to the giant pandas' natural habitat. Explain how the loss of habitat has contributed to the decline of the panda population. Make sure to include evidence from all **three** articles.

- 10.** Two main ideas of “Helping Giant Pandas” are that only a few giant pandas exist in the world today and that it is important to discover ways to keep them alive. Which **two** key details support these main ideas?
- A. “People the world over love the black-and-white bears known as pandas.” (paragraph 1)
 - B. “Today, only around 1,600 giant pandas survive on Earth.” (paragraph 1)
 - C. “Scientists are working together to find solutions to the problems these beautiful bears face.” (paragraph 1)
 - D. “Giant pandas eat four or five kinds of bamboo that grow in their home range.” (paragraph 3)
 - E. “Panda females use hollow tree stumps and stone caves as dens for raising their cubs.” (paragraph 4)
 - F. “Females give birth to one or two cubs, but often the mother can only care for one.” (paragraph 5)

