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# BORN **in** CHINA

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**D**isney's new True Life Adventure film **BORN IN CHINA** takes an epic journey into the wilds of China where few people have ever ventured. Following the stories of three animal families, the film transports audiences to some of the most extreme environments on Earth to witness some of the most intimate moments ever captured in a nature film. A doting panda bear mother guides her growing baby as she begins to explore and seek independence. A two-year-old golden monkey who feels displaced by his new baby sister joins up with a group of free-spirited outcasts. And a mother snow leopard—an elusive animal rarely caught on camera—faces the very real drama of raising her two cubs in one of the harshest and most unforgiving environments on the planet. Featuring stunning, never-before-seen imagery, the film navigates China's vast terrain—from the frigid mountains to the heart of the bamboo forest—on the wings of red-crowned cranes, seamlessly tying the extraordinary tales together. Opening in U.S. theaters on April 21, 2017, **BORN IN CHINA** is directed by accomplished Chinese filmmaker Lu Chuan, and produced by Disney's Roy Conli and premiere nature filmmakers Brian Leith and Phil Chapman.

See **BORN IN CHINA** opening week and Disney's new True Life Adventure film **BORN IN CHINA** will make a donation to World Wildlife Fund to help protect wild pandas and snow leopards in China.



Learn more at [Disney.com/BornInChina](http://Disney.com/BornInChina)



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*Dr. Lizabeth Fogel  
Director of Education, The Walt Disney Studios*

# WELCOME TO CHINA!



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**A**lmost no country on earth can rival the impressive landscapes and cultural heritage of China. As one of the world's oldest civilizations, China has a rich history that began thousands of years ago. Today,

modern China is home to 1.3 billion people, the largest population of any country on Earth. This population is diverse, with over 56 officially recognized ethnic groups and 298 living languages. The beautiful, culturally rich land of China covers over 3,700,000 square miles (9,580,000 square kilometers), which makes it slightly smaller than the United States in comparative area. Beijing, the capital city, is home to the nation's governmental and political institutions, while nearby Shanghai is a bustling port metropolis containing the largest population of any city in the world. Beyond the many urban centers, China's vast wilderness is home to a wide variety of distinct geographic features and unique species.

Within China's borders, one can find a variety of landforms and ecosystems, from mountains and high plateaus to sandy deserts and thick forests. Approximately one third of China is covered by mountains! In the western region of the country, the fabled Himalayas are home to the roof of the world, Mt. Everest, the highest point on Earth. Other well-known geographic

landmarks in China include the powerful Yangtze River and the arid Gobi Desert. The Yangtze River, the longest in Asia, winds 3,915 miles (6,300 kilometers) in length. To describe the power of this mighty river, Du Fu, an 8th century Chinese poet once wrote, "traveling up the rapids of the Yangtze is more difficult than climbing to heaven." From east to west, cities and towns throughout China were built and continue to thrive along this very important natural waterway. On the northern border of China passing into Mongolia is the Gobi Desert, an immense stretch of rocky land 1,000 miles (1,600 km) long and 300 to 600 miles (500 to 1,000 km) wide. Although dry, with extreme temperatures, the Gobi Desert is home to a small population of nomadic Chinese people who live off the land through livestock agriculture while living in clay homes. They are just one of the many cultures and people who helped establish modern China.



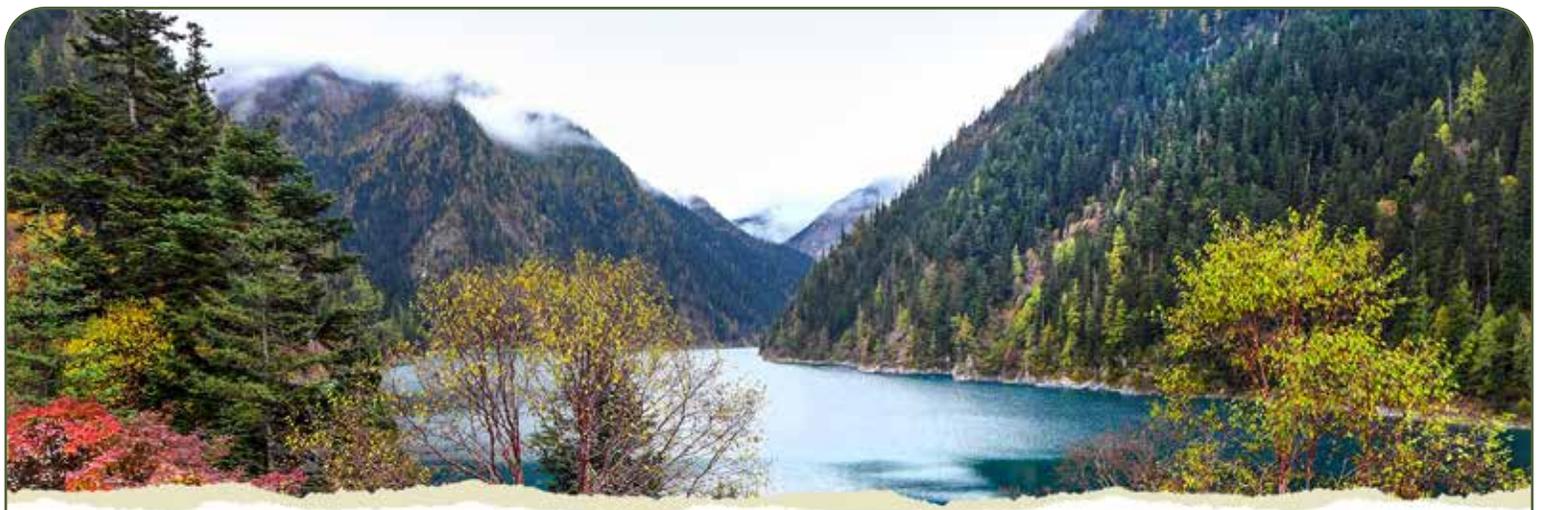
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### A GROWING COUNTRY

When exploring China's past, historians break up periods of time by dynasty, when a hereditary line of rulers governed over the country. The first was the Qin dynasty in 221 B.C. established by Qin Shihuang, the first Emperor of China. Qin greatly expanded the size of the country and initiated the building of The Great Wall of China in order to protect the borders of the empire from wandering, barbaric nomads. The last dynasty was the Qing, which concluded in 1912 when the imperial system was replaced by a new form of government. As seen with other growing countries, China's population established communities along rivers in order to have access to water for consumption and transportation. However, China had another force behind settlement, the Silk Road. The Silk Road was a web of trade routes spread across China to connect with surrounding countries in order to expand trade. Named after one of a merchant's most precious and sought after goods, silk, this network of trade served as a conveyor belt for produce, spices, grain, tools, religious objects, artwork, precious stones and more. Trade opened up a whole new world of products previously unavailable to Chinese inhabitants.



### CREATIVE CULTURE

The heritage of this powerful country is ingrained in the everyday life of the people, and the culture of this country spans centuries. Many beliefs and philosophies of modern China are inspired by a man named Confucius who lived almost 3,000 years ago. Recurring themes from his teachings include morality, kindness and education. In addition to the philosophy of Confucius, many people of China are guided by the religion of Buddhism. The religion is based on the teachings of Gautama who lived 25 centuries ago in India. He was called the Buddha, which means the awakened one, after his realization of the meaning of life, death and existence.

Although China's official language is Standard Chinese or Mandarin, language in China is incredibly diverse with nearly 200 regional dialects. The written Chinese language is one of the most difficult and graphically beautiful languages to transcribe. The traditional alphabet used in much of the western world is substituted with symbols or characters. This form of writing

is called calligraphy and was created by the Chinese nearly 2,000 years ago. Within the art of calligraphy, various symbols often convey much more than a word and may instead convey a complex idea or thought such as the wonder of nature.

China's connection with nature is seen through both written and artistic works. Mountains, flowers, birds and landscapes are common themes throughout many Chinese art forms. Nature is precious in the Chinese culture. The government has reinforced this by creating over 1,200 reserves to protect plants and animals. You will soon meet some of them! Are you ready to explore China's wilderness and meet the giant panda, golden snub-nosed monkey, snow leopard and neighboring species?

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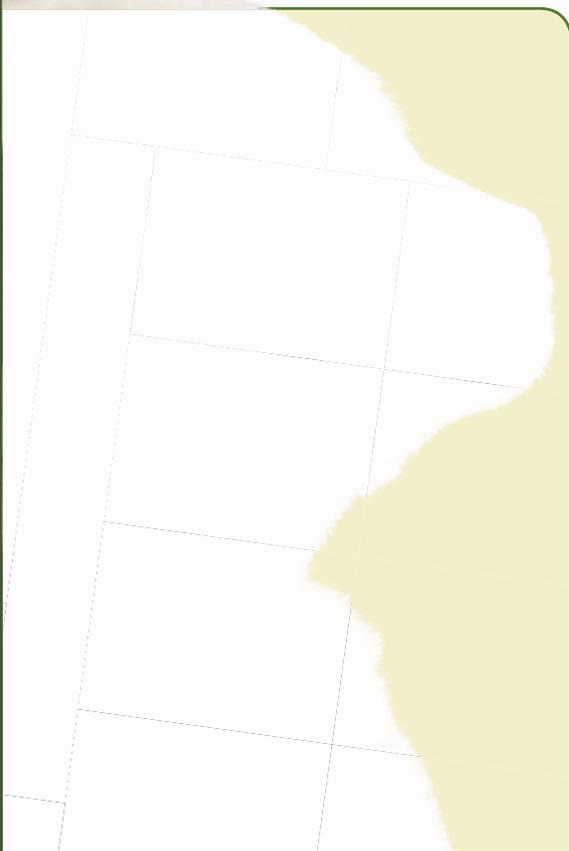
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MEET CHINA'S BELOVED ICON

# The Giant Panda



**T**he giant panda is both culturally significant and endemic to China, meaning China is the only place in the world where giant pandas can be found living in the wild. They are one of the most recognized species in the world and have become a conservation icon for both China and global conservation efforts! Their round bodies and big eyes remind us of human babies, and the way they eat sitting down reminds us of ourselves. It's no wonder we are drawn to these remarkable animals. Giant pandas inhabit the misty mountains of central China, living in fragmented sections of the Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu provinces with millions of people living just outside these forest habitats. China has 67 protected reserves to help save existing giant panda habitat and provide giant pandas with a safe oasis.

## PROFILE OF A GIANT PANDA

The giant panda is a unique animal with many specialized adaptations. These elusive and solitary animals can stand as tall as an average person, between 5.2 and 6.2 feet (1.58 and 1.88 meters). Males weigh between 190 and 275 pounds (86 to 125 kilograms) and females are smaller, weighing between 155 and 220 pounds (70 to 100 kilograms). This distinctive bear has black markings on its ears, around its eyes, nose, legs and shoulders. The rest of the woolly coat is white and this thick layer keeps the giant panda warm in the cold, snow-covered mountains of China. These well-adapted bears can live up to 14 to 20 years in the wild.

Although giant pandas are typically thought of as gentle creatures, they are still wild animals that can be as dangerous as any other bear. Strong jaw muscles and large teeth are adaptations that make it easier for giant pandas to crush tough bamboo just as simply as you could snack on celery! A "pseudo thumb" or modified wrist bone helps them grip bamboo more easily. These bears are pros at munching on this crunchy, fibrous plant.

## Did you know?

Panda's have six digits on each hand? They have five fingers PLUS an amazing pseudo-thumb!

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## BAMBOO - FOREST FOOD OF THE GIANT PANDA

In the broadleaf and old growth coniferous mountain forests of central China, bamboo crowds forest floors, providing a generous buffet to grazing pandas. At elevations of 5,000 to 10,000 feet (1,524 to 3,048 meters) this environment generates heavy clouds creating frequent rainstorms and damp mist that helps keep bamboo flourishing. These temperate forests produce around 30 to 40 inches (76 to 101 centimeters) of rain and snow a year. Although the giant panda has a carnivore's digestive system allowing them to consume some meat, bamboo makes up 99% of their diet. Due to the plants poor nutritional value, giant pandas spend more than 10 hours a day munching on this evergreen grass in an effort to consume more than 40 pounds (18 kilograms) of necessary fuel and energy. Though bamboo has a lot of water in it, nearby streams and rivers fed by melting snow provide them with refreshing water. Giant pandas play an important role in regenerating China's mountain ecosystem. These black and white-colored bears help replant the forest when they leave seed-filled droppings on the forest floors. Over time these replanted seeds grow, helping to replenish the forest. A giant panda eats food much like we do, by sitting down to free up their forearms for grasping and holding bamboo shoots. It almost looks like the only thing missing from their meal is a table and chairs!

### A TYPICAL DAY

Giant pandas spend much of their day alternating between eating, resting and sleeping. These bears are not the most active members of the animal kingdom! Unlike other bears in



their scientific animal family, they do not hibernate. During harsh winters, they will journey down the mountain to seek warmer temperatures. Giant pandas share their habitat with dwarf blue sheep, multi-colored pheasants, crested ibis, golden snub-nosed monkeys and takin or goat antelopes.

Though these are all friendly neighbors, the giant panda must be wary of prowling predators such as jackals, leopards, and the yellow-throated marten. Giant pandas can easily fend off most predators, but these lurking hunters can pose a threat to their much smaller offspring.

### COMMUNICATION

Giant pandas prefer to live a solitary lifestyle as it affords greater access to needed resources. Although they may encounter other pandas, when they're on their own they have unique ways of communicating with others from afar. Lone pandas communicate with others by using sounds and scent. Bleating goat-like cries and squeaks echo through the forest in the spring. Scent glands at the base of their tails secrete a waxy substance that is rubbed on trees as a signal to nearby

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giant pandas that they are in the area. Giant pandas have an excellent sense of smell allowing them to easily pick up on this distinctive communication. Males take dust baths, rolling in the dirt allowing the dust to absorb their scent before it floats off into the forest air. Not exactly the way to get clean, but it definitely makes a statement! Giant pandas will scratch tree bark with their massive claws as a visual sign of where they've been. Think of it as the giant panda's way of writing their friends a quick note.



### AN IMPORTANT YET VULNERABLE SPECIES

Although giant pandas have recently been reclassified as vulnerable by the IUCN, they were once considered an endangered species due to their small population size and threats such as habitat loss created by growing cities, increased timber usage and expanding farmland.

### RAISING YOUNG

The gestation period for female giant pandas ranges from 3-5 months, with an average pregnancy lasting 135 days. This wide variation in gestation occurs because the fertilized panda egg usually floats free in the mother's uterus before it implants and begins developing. Once the embryo is attached, its development continues until a panda is born. Female giant pandas only produce 5 to 8 cubs in their lifetime and can start reproducing at 4 to 5 years of age.

When cubs enter this world, they weigh just 3 to 5 ounces (85 to 142 grams) and are pink, hairless and blind. These tiny babies are about the size of a stick of butter and are 900 times smaller than their mom. It's no wonder they are so dependent on their mother for the first 18 months of their life, never venturing very far from her side. Between one and two months, baby giant pandas begin to open their eyes and are carried by mom as she travels outside of the den. Finally these little ones gain some independence at six months, moving alongside mom instead of in her arms. However, mom stays as the primary source of food, nursing for eight to nine months. By three years of age giant pandas leave the protection of their mom and venture off into the forest to live a primarily solitary life.

The word vulnerable refers to the conservation status of a particular species of plant or animal, telling us how close that species is to possible extinction. For many years, giant pandas were on the cusp of disappearing due to extinction and were seen as a symbol of conservation and wildlife protection. The recent reclassification of the giant panda is an incredible conservation success and accomplishment that demonstrates how human actions and collaboration can help reverse the decline of species in the wild. It is estimated, that there are less than 2,500 giant pandas left in the wild in fragmented habitats. Conservation organizations, most notably the World Wildlife Fund, are working to stop habitat loss and ensure there are giant pandas for generations to come. Over 300 giant pandas live in accredited zoos and breeding centers around the world, most of which are in China. China has granted the highest level of protection to the giant panda through the country's wildlife laws.

**Now that we've learned about this beautiful bear, it's time to move up the mountains and meet their agile, unique looking neighbor, the golden snub-nosed monkey.**

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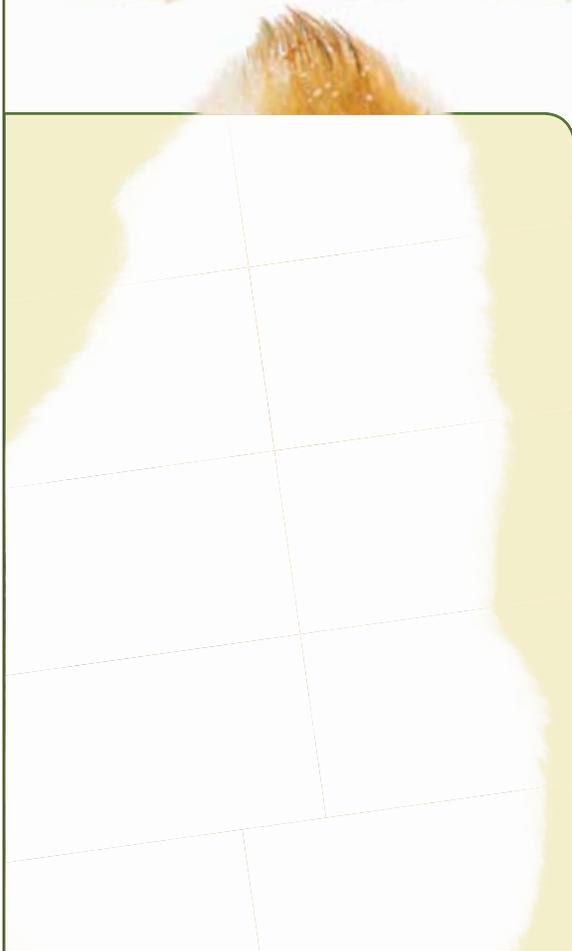
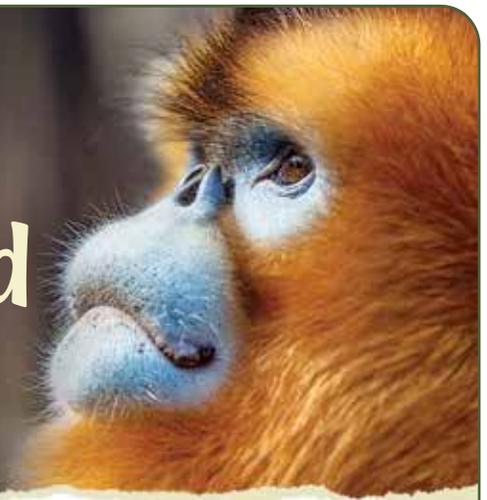
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MEET THE MYSTERIOUS

# Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey



**M**onkeys are prevalent throughout Chinese culture. These playful and admired creatures are recognized in the Chinese Zodiac calendar, as statues on ancient temples, in paintings and even folklore. The golden snub-nosed monkey is one of China's elusive and rare primates, a species of which little is known. These flat nosed, orange-haired, blue-faced animals spend their lives in the highest treetops in the coldest climates of China, which makes them a difficult species to observe and study. Known also as the Chinese golden monkey or Sichuan snub-nosed monkey, these agile creatures are endemic to China and live in the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu, Hubei and Shaanxi.

## PROFILE OF A GOLDEN SNUB-NOSED MONKEY

The golden snub-nosed monkey has a unique appearance, causing it to stand out among other monkeys you have seen before. The name comes from its golden orange-brushed fur and short nose with exposed nostrils. Their shoulders, back, head and tail are a charcoal color with their stomachs and underside remaining a lighter white or yellow color. These monkeys have striking pale blue faces, almost like ice, with surrounding fur covering their cheeks and forehead. The males are overall brighter in color with fire-orange heads. Long hairs cover their shoulders and back like a cape. Unlike other primates, the fur of the golden snub-nosed monkey will extend to their hands, acting like mittens to protect extremities from the extreme temperatures of the high altitude climate.

Standing at 22 to 29 inches (57 to 76 centimeters) tall, golden snub-nosed monkeys have a tail almost as long as their body measuring 20 to 28 inches (50 to 72 centimeters). Males typically weigh on average 40 pounds (18 kilograms) with females nearly half their size around 25 pounds (11.5 kilograms). The snubbed nose is angled up towards the forehead, exposing two long nostrils. Scientists are unsure as to why the nose is shaped this way, however some believe it was developed due to the harsh,

## Did you know?

Golden snub-nosed monkeys spend almost all of their time in treetops!

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cold environment the species inhabits. A flattened nose leaves less surface area that can be exposed to frostbite.

### FOREST FOOD

Golden snub-nosed monkeys live high up in China's mountainous coniferous and deciduous broad-leaved forests. At elevations of 4,593 to 9,186 feet (1,400 to 2,800 meters), snowfall occurs 6 months out of the year. These adaptive monkeys have evolved to thrive in these climates and are well equipped to handle this environment. Their habitat often crosses over into the giant panda's neck of the woods making them next-door neighbors! Similar to the giant panda, during the winter months the cold climate forces the monkeys to move down the mountain in order to find available food sources.

Golden snub-nosed monkeys are resourceful foragers, flexing their diet based on what is available. During winter, bark, lichen and seeds become the main diet for golden snub-nosed monkeys as they are almost always available after some digging in the snow to find them. Lichen is a fungi that grows on rocks and trees and looks like a light green plant or moss. Think of them as the potato chips of the forest. They can find them everywhere, even in the winter! The rest of the year golden snub-nosed monkeys will eat an assortment of leaves, buds and fruit. They will also eat insects and small vertebrates such as birds or even bird eggs. Like the giant panda, the golden snub-nosed monkey enjoys soft, new growth bamboo shoots. It's a watery appetizer that will quickly rehydrate them while they search for other food. In addition to lapping up water at a nearby stream, golden snub-nosed monkeys have been observed eating snow in the winter. Snowballs for dessert anyone?

### A TYPICAL DAY

Golden snub-nosed monkeys are mostly arboreal, spending 97% of their day in the mid to high canopy of treetops. Adult male monkeys are the leaders and protectors spending the most time on the ground out of any others in the group. Golden snub-nosed monkeys are quite active during the day,

traveling for food in the morning and afternoon with a break in the middle for a short nap to warm up and re-energize. While moving through their forest habitat, golden snub-nosed monkeys will walk on all fours, climb or leap to get to their destination. Golden snub-nosed monkeys can also walk bi-pedally, or on two feet, typically when traveling on the ground. This helps them keep an eye out for predators, allowing them to easily leap into the trees when needed.



The golden snub-nosed monkey shares its habitat with a wide variety of forest creatures including the giant panda, Asian black bear, musk deer, porcupine and a variety of colorful birds. Their forest habitat is also home to another unique species, the takin, a large hoofed mammal with horns and thick coat that is often referred to as a goat antelope. Some neighboring species also create threats. Predators such as the wolf, Asiatic golden cat, leopard, fox, Indian civet, tiger, weasel, goshawk and golden eagle keep the golden snub-nosed monkey alert and on guard.

### COMMUNICATION

These social monkeys form large family groups, called troops, ranging from sub groups of 20 to 70 in the winter to combined groups of 600 members in the summer. Imagine the size of that family reunion! Smaller sub units of monkeys join together to form these large groups. It is believed that the size of the groups may change depending on predators and food availability. These sub units are formed either with one mature male and many females with their offspring or with all males. Males are always keeping watch and will create dramatic displays and vocalizations to scare away threatening

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predators or other monkeys. Baring of teeth, loud cries, chasing and grabbing at an intruder are all ways to scare off a danger to the troop.

To communicate with one another, golden snub-nosed monkeys sing to family members using a variety of high-pitched squeaks to signal alarm, say hello and comfort each other. These vocalizations are often made without even moving their face, almost like a ventriloquist! Grooming and hugging are other ways of communicating within the group, offering companionship and comfort. Hugging is also a method of keeping warm in the winter, huddling close to keep out the cold.

### RAISING YOUNG

Females are slow to mature and begin reproducing at 5 years of age. Golden snub-nosed monkeys gestation is 6.5 months and females typically give birth to one infant at a time. When these little monkeys enter the world their hair is white-grey with long black hairs on the back and head. As they grow older and become more independent from their moms, their coat starts to change color, developing golden orange and brown hues. Their face is at first pink and later develops the icy blue pigment.

Their mother is the main caretaker with other females assisting and males stepping in when needed to provide protection. Infants are carried by their mothers until they are two weeks old. After that time, they begin to explore staying close to mom while eating and playing nearby. At two to three months old, these young monkeys start to play and socialize with other monkeys their age. Golden snub-nosed infants nurse until they are about one year old, during this time they begin to learn how to forage and will start consuming solids around 5 months of age.



### LOSING CRITICAL HABITAT

Golden snub-nosed monkeys are an endangered species and face many challenges including habitat loss and poaching. Growing cities, increased farming and development of land are taking away precious forest terrain that is critical to the survival of these monkeys. In some cultures their soft, fire-orange coat is sought after due

to the belief that it can prevent rheumatism or an inflammation of the joints. Protecting this unique and rare species is an ongoing effort.

Scientists don't know exactly how many golden snub-nosed monkeys are left in the wild, but believe there are only 8,000 - 10,000 remaining

Conservation organizations like the World Wildlife Fund are working to save the forests that are home to these monkeys and many other species. The Chinese government has listed the golden snub-nosed monkey under the Chinese Wildlife Protection Act. In addition there are protected areas where the monkey can live peacefully including Baihe, Foping, Shennongjia and Wanglang Nature Reserves.

**We've studied this special monkey and its amazing traits and now it's time to explore the rocky terrain of China in search of the snow leopard.**

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MEET CHINA'S ELUSIVE BIG CAT

# The Snow Leopard



**T**he snow leopard is a stunning, ring-spotted large cat that lives in the western mountains of Central Asia. About 60% of the snow leopards habitat can be found within the borders of China. Snow leopards are often referred to as the ghost cat due to their beautiful grey coat and rarity of sightings. Climbing the rocky mountaintops, snow leopards will camouflage into the white, jagged terrain, eluding their prey and many scientists attempting to study this mysterious species.

## PROFILE OF A SNOW LEOPARD

Snow leopards stand about 24 inches tall (60 centimeters) at the shoulder. Their bodies are long and sleek, measuring 4 to 5 feet (0.9 to 1.15 meters) from the head to the base of their tail. Snow leopards weigh between 77 to 121 pounds (35 to 55 kilograms) with the males weighing 30% more than the females. These powerful cats have short front legs and long hind legs used as a spring to propel them forward as much as 30 feet (9.1 meters) in one jump, almost the length of a school bus! Their tail is almost as long as their whole body measuring up to 40 inches (1 meter). This thick tail helps the snow leopard balance when they are pouncing from rock to rock. During the cold winter months, snow leopards wrap their tails around their bodies like a scarf for warmth at night.

However, the tail is not the only adaptation that helps the snow leopard survive in their high altitude habitat. Their thick coat of fur is white to yellow in color with a grey speckled and black-circled pattern. The rings, referred to as rosettes, create a beautiful and striking pattern that acts as camouflage among the rocky mountain terrain, making it easier to sneak up on prey! Snow leopards have short rounded ears to hold in heat and a wide nose to heat the cold outside air before reaching their lungs. Even their feet are made for cold weather as their large paws work like snowshoes keeping them from sinking into the snow. The hair between their toes acts as protection, keeping the paws from becoming frostbitten during the harsh mountainous winters.

## Did you know?

During cold winter nights, a snow leopard's tail can function as a scarf, wrapping around their body to help keep them warm.

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## FOOD

Snow leopards prefer cliffs, rocky ridges, grassy slopes and valleys in the cold and arid mountains of China. These areas provide the perfect lookout for spotting prey! Availability of prey determines the snow leopard's home range, which can often vary between 11 to 386 square miles (30 to 1,000 square kilometers). Snow leopards mark their territory to define their range, but these ranges often overlap, as this species is not overly territorial. This nomadic animal roams its home range and beyond every eight to ten days to hunt for food.



Blue sheep, Asiatic ibex and argali are usually what's for dinner, although these prey animals sometimes weigh three times as much as the snow leopard! This cat can feed on a blue sheep for up to a week. Hunting sheep and goats is essential to the ecosystem as these herds would otherwise eat too many plants and prevent other wildlife from consuming the sparse shrubs and grasses. Snow leopards are opportunistic predators eating what they can find including smaller mammals such as rabbit, marmot, pheasant and partridge. When meat is scarce, snow leopards even feed on greenery, eating grass, twigs and other vegetation in order to survive. However, food scarcity often leads to conflict with humans,



as snow leopards may prey on farmer's livestock when necessary which can create animosity.

## A TYPICAL DAY

Snow leopards are known to be crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk. However, due to their shy nature, if people are living nearby they become completely nocturnal, active only at night. If there are few people around, these quiet cats venture out in the middle of the day. Even though snow leopards are the top predators in their mountain habitat and not preyed upon, they are easy to scare off, making it difficult for scientists to study them without the use of technology.

Although there are many different theories as why some big cat species live in groups while others prefer solitude, snow leopards seem to thrive on their own. These skilled hunters are thought to use snow, rain and fog to their advantage while

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stalking their prey, and working alone helps prevent them from being spotted when hunting. Once territory has been established, solitude provides greater access to resources as they do not have to share within a group dynamic.

### COMMUNICATION

Snow leopards communicate with one another through sound and scent. Although snow leopards cannot roar like other big cats, they have a variety of vocalizations such as a purr, mew, hiss, growl, moan and yowl. Some of these sounds are very similar to those that a house cat would make!

Another form of snow leopard communication occurs through scent markings. Snow leopards create “smelly signposts” by scraping the ground with their hind legs and spraying urine against the rocks. This signals where the snow leopard has been and marks the perimeter of a home range.

### RAISING YOUNG

Female snow leopards can begin to reproduce around 2-3 years old and the gestational length is approximately 3 months. Typically, females will have a litter of 2-3 cubs. The mother will raise and protect her cubs alone in a hidden den surrounding them with her fur for warmth. At this stage, the young are helpless and don't even open their eyes for an entire week! Weighing 11 to 25 ounces (320 to 708 grams) at birth, these cubs are born with beautiful spotted coats, much like their parents. The cubs stay safe inside the den while their mother hunts for food, returning often to nurse. After two months, the cubs start to eat solid food. By three months of age, they venture outside of the den to observe hunting behaviors. Finally, at one year of age, mom teaches them how to hunt. When the cubs near 2 years of age, they will leave home to start a solitary life on their own.



### AN IMPORTANT YET ENDANGERED SPECIES

Snow leopards are an endangered species, making them rare and in need of our protection. Poaching and illegal trade of their coat and bones for medicinal purposes have long been a threat to snow leopards. Expanding farmland shrinks habitat for not only the snow leopard but also its prey, making their hunting of prey much more difficult. In addition, farmers hunt these cats in order to protect their livestock herds in the winter when the snow leopards are hunting for food. Only 4,000 – 6,500 snow leopards are reported to be left in the wild. Conservation and awareness efforts continue among scientists, zoos and conservation groups, including Panthera, the Snow Leopard Trust and the World Wildlife Fund. In addition, the establishment of protected lands such as the National Nature Reserve in Quinghai allows snow leopards the ability to roam freely, protected from the growing world around them.

**After exploring the quiet world of the snow leopard, we move onward to meet an iconic and graceful bird well-recognized in Chinese culture.**

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MEET CHINA'S NOBLE

# Red-Crowned Cranes



## Did you know?

Red-crowned cranes use dance moves, like bouncing and leaping, to communicate with each other.

**F**ar across from the snow leopard's rocky mountains, beyond the giant panda's bamboo covered forest and past the golden snub-nosed monkey's snow covered trees is the territory of the red-crowned crane. The red-crowned crane is a well-recognized endangered bird in China and lives in the northeastern region, taking winter vacations to Eastern China to escape some of the bitter cold weather. This white-bodied bird has dark, black-brushed wing tips and a black neck and face. A bare head exposes bright red skin and long slate gray legs support this 15 to 22 pound bird (6.8 to 9.9 kilograms). At 5 feet tall (1.5 meters) with wings that spread up to 8 feet (2.4 meters), this graceful bird is quite the beauty.

### PROFILE OF A RED-CROWNED CRANE

Throughout Chinese culture, cranes have been seen as a symbol of fidelity, good luck and love. They stand for nobility and immortality in China. For these reasons, the crane is utilized in Chinese art and is admired by many throughout the country.

Red-crowned cranes are a unique species and special within China. They are very different from other birds because they nest on the ground in shallow, bowl-shaped nests made of dead reeds. They prefer marshes or swamps to nest in with ample amounts of food nearby. Red-crowned cranes are opportunistic omnivores eating fish, insects, rodents, amphibians, reeds, grasses, berries and other plants.

### COMMUNICATION

Their long, coiled windpipe is the perfect instrument for their many different vocalizations. In addition to their calls, red-crowned cranes communicate through dance. Seemingly choreographed dances between cranes can indicate

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territorial fights or mating rituals. Dances may include leaps into the air, bouncing up and down or running with wings spread outward from their bodies. Some may see their dance as humorous and others may view it as a beautiful bird ballet!

### RAISING YOUNG

Red-crowned cranes live in flocks and form a lifelong bond with their mate. Females lay white or pigmented eggs that hatch after one month. Hatchlings are covered in yellow feathers and weigh 5 ounces (0.15 kilograms). Though their parents protect them, hatchlings leave the nest on their first day and are swimming by the time they are two to three days old!

### AN IMPORTANT YET ENDANGERED SPECIES

Although rare and respected throughout the Chinese culture, red-crowned cranes are an endangered species, with only 2,750 remaining in the wild. With wetland destruction and continued agricultural and industrial development, their habitat is continually threatened. These elegant birds almost became extinct in the twentieth century when they were hunted for their beautiful feathers. Many international agreements now protect this species and their habitat by outlawing hunting of red-crowned cranes. Protected areas have ensured some of their habitat remains safe and preserved.



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# YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT!

By sharing what you have learned about giant pandas, golden snub-nosed monkeys, snow leopards and red-crowned cranes, you are on your way to helping protect these species! Shared knowledge creates awareness, which can lead to action. A positive attitude towards all animals can help make a conservation impact when combined with actions that benefit the world around us. While you may not live in China with these rare and fascinating creatures, you probably do live in an area with a wide variety of animals near your own home. Think about ways you can help these animals.

## Create Wildlife-Friendly Habitats.

Consider creating a place for wildlife to thrive in your yard. Provide a water source, a place for animals to live and plants that provide food. Before you know it, your backyard could be home to all kinds of insects, plants, and animals.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Replenish.

Reduce your consumption (achieve a small “footprint”). Reuse items that normally are just tossed into the trash and recycle everything you can. Replenish the earth by planting a tree, which provides food and a home for many animals. Trees even help clean the air!

## Make Wise Conservation Choices.

Finding alternative ways to travel such as carpooling, biking and walking are all great options to lessen your impact on the environment. Think sustainable! When shopping at the store, before you toss an item into the cart ask yourself is it sustainably sourced?

## Choose Pets Wisely.

Though many regulations exist around the world to protect wild animals, the illegal pet trade still takes many wild animals directly from their homes. When the time comes to add a furry, feathery or scaly addition to your family, be sure you know where it came from and consider adopting a pet from your local animal shelter.

## Connect with Nature.

Explore the natural world around you. Take a nature walk or hike with your family and friends to learn more about wildlife in your community. You might find that you have quite the ecosystem in your own backyard!

## Learn More.

To expand your knowledge of wildlife in the world around you, visit an [AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium](#). Take the opportunity to learn about wildlife and conservation efforts being made around the world to protect animals.

## Support Conservation Organizations.

Check out organizations that protect wildlife around the world like the Disney Conservation Fund.



### DISNEY CONSERVATION FUND

The Disney Conservation Fund helps to protect many of China's most threatened species including giant pandas and snow leopards. The fund, part of Disney Citizenship, supports nonprofit organizations that reverse the decline of at-risk wildlife, and engage communities in their protection. The fund also works to increase the time kids spend in nature by supporting programs that provide experiences for outdoor exploration and discovery. The Disney Conservation Fund was established in 1995 and to date has supported more than 300 nonprofit organizations and more than a thousand conservation projects worldwide. You can learn more about the Disney Conservation Fund by visiting [Disney.com/conservation](http://Disney.com/conservation).

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# 1

# A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE

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China's language is not written in letters but in symbols. In this activity you will solve each line by decoding the symbols to reveal the message. Use number one as an example. Don't forget to use the key for help.

1

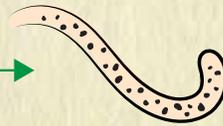


ABC,



( China's language is not written in letters but through symbols. )

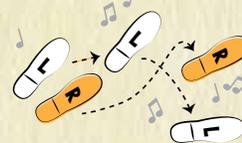
2



**KEY**

- STAY
- FOR
- THROUGH
- USE
- SPEND
- BY

3



4



5



in



6



w/



2



1) China's language is not written in letters, but through symbols. 2) Snow leopards use their tail for balance. 3) Golden monkeys stay warm in winter by hugging each other. 4) Giant pandas spend 10 hours a day eating bamboo. 5) Golden snub-nosed monkeys communicate through dance. 6) Go outside with your family to see animals.

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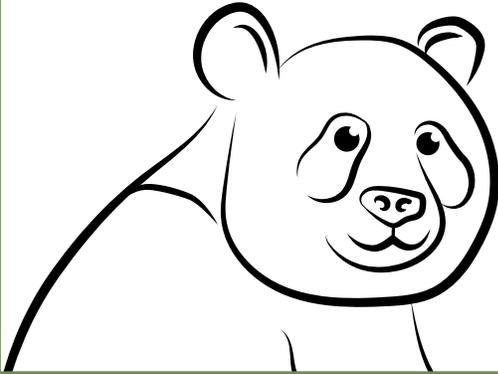
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Storyboards are used by filmmakers to tell stories. Color the pictures and then add your own picture in frame 6 to complete the story.

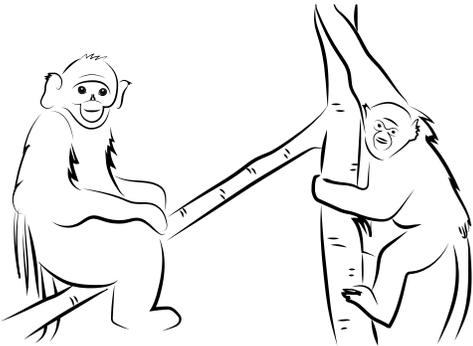
**1** Meet China's beloved mascot... the Giant Panda.



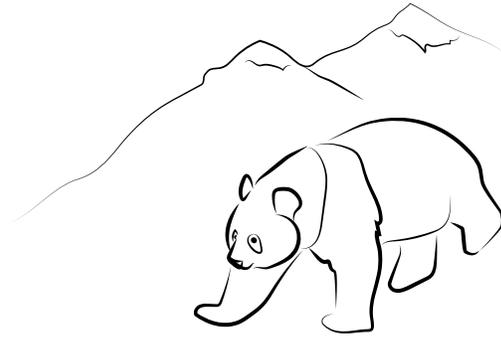
**2** I may look cute and cuddly, but I am still a bear with strong jaw muscles and large teeth to eat my favorite food, bamboo!



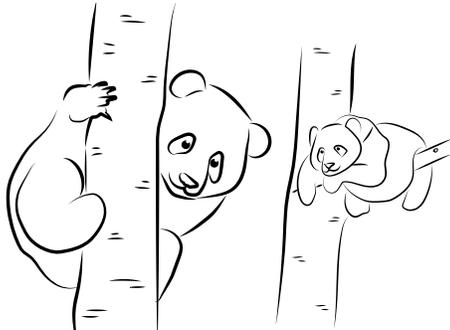
**3** I share my habitat with the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey, an endangered species.



**4** During the harsh cold winter months I stroll down the mountain to seek warmer climates.



**5** That's my mom. I will stay by her side until I turn 18 months. Then I get to venture into this beautiful world on my own.



**6** Go outside and draw the habitat you have in your own backyard.

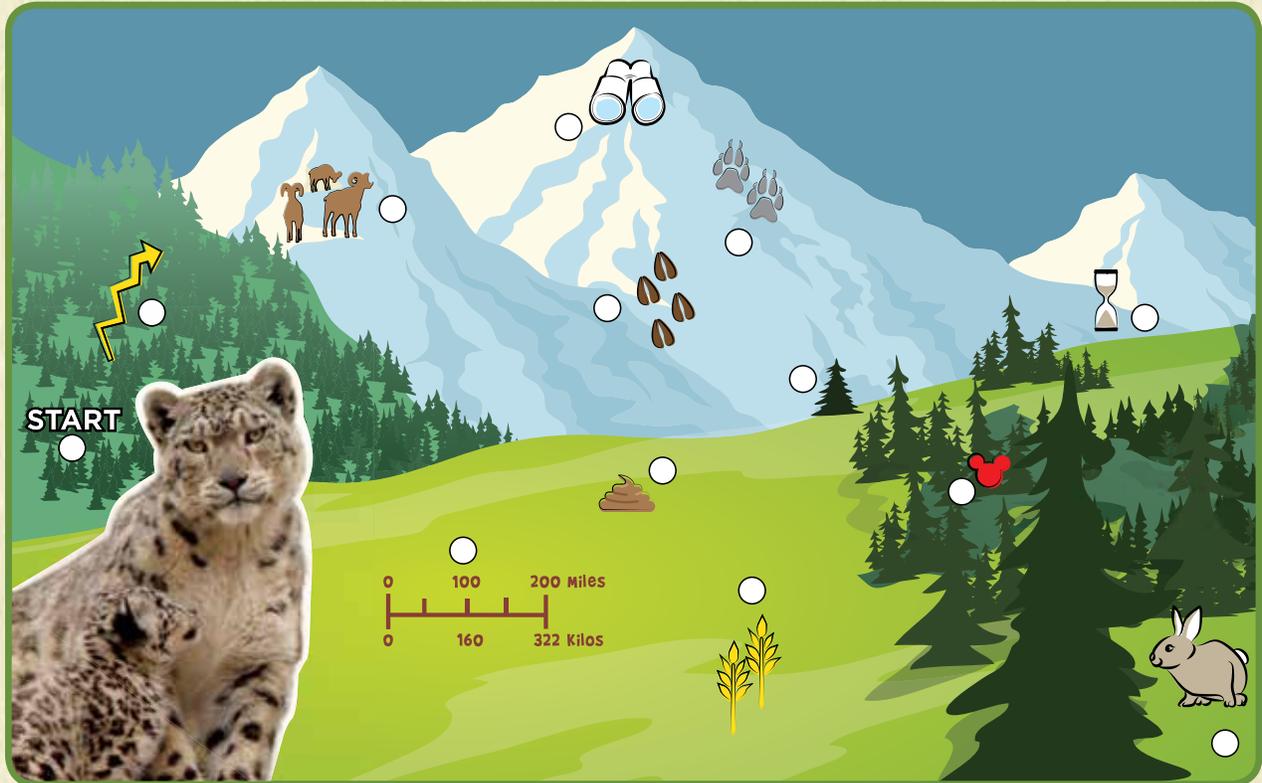
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# 3

# A LEOPARD'S JOURNEY

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**S**now leopards prefer to live by cliffs, rocky ridges, grassy slopes and valleys in the cold and dry mountains. Connect the dots to follow a snow leopard's predation path. Start at the snow leopard then begin its predatory path by climbing up to the jagged arrow. As you continue your path, use the clues that follow each statement in the box below.



1. Snow leopards are nomadic animals which means they do not have a distinct path when wandering the mountain. 
2. Their home range is between 11 and 386 sq. miles (17–621 km). 
3. Snow leopards prey on blue sheep, Asiatic ibex and argali. 
4. They use scent to mark their territory. 
5. Snow leopards prey on herbivores, which is essential to the ecosystem, otherwise herbivores may overeat the vegetation. 
6. Being elevated on a mountain range is ideal for spotting prey. 
7. They hunt for food every eight to ten days. 
8. Occasionally they will munch on vegetation. 
9. When food is scarce, they may travel down and prey on farmer's livestock. 
10. Being crepuscular animals, they are most active at dawn or dusk. 
11. They are opportunistic animals and will eat what they can find including smaller mammals. 
12. Disney Conservation Fund (DCF) supports many of China's endangered species. There are only 4,000 to 6,500 snow leopards left in the wild. Much work needs to be done to protect them. 

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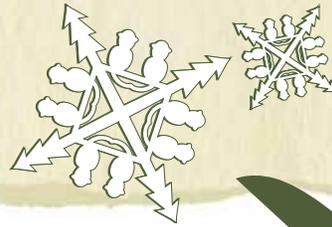
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## 4

## CRAFT A SNOWFLAKE



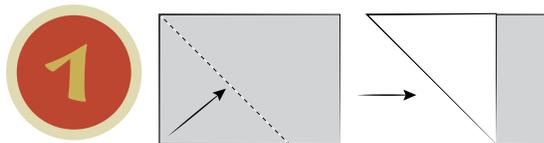
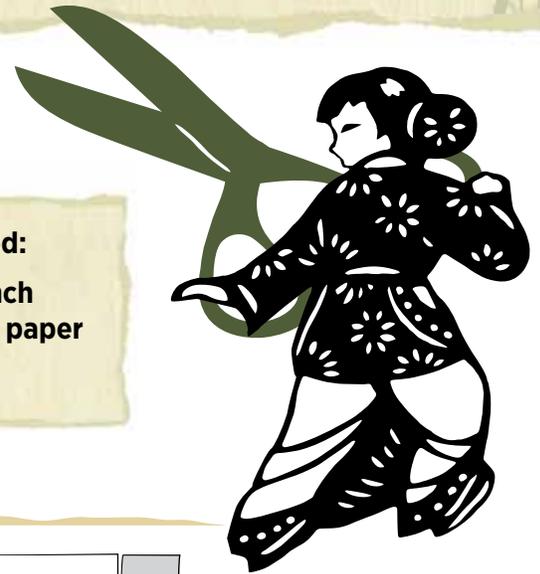
诞生在中国

**P**aper cutting is a Chinese art form used to create beautiful depictions of landscapes and nature. You can practice your paper cutting skills by making golden snub-nosed monkey themed snowflakes.

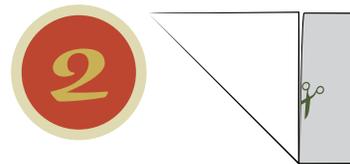
Use the template to shape your paper into these cold-weather loving primates or start with a blank sheet and use your imagination to create your own.

## You'll need:

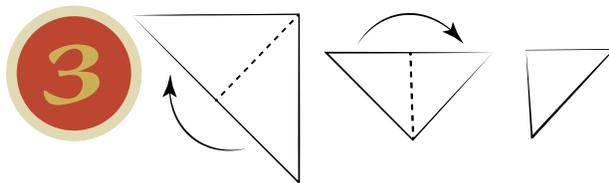
- 8.5x11 inch sheet of paper
- scissors



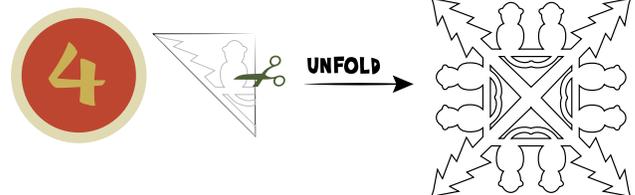
Begin with your 8.5x11 paper flat on the table. Fold one corner of your paper up so that the top edges are even. (Or, cut out the template on the following page, then skip to step 3.)



Cut off the part of the paper that the folded triangle does not cover.



Continue to fold your triangle two more times. Then, proceed to make cut-outs that penetrate all layers of your triangle without completely cutting off any one side. If using a template, cut out just the dark shapes.



When you've finished cutting, gently open your snowflake to see your work of art. Use double-sided tape to attach them to windows and watch your view turn into a winter landscape—just like the habitat of the golden snub-nosed monkeys!

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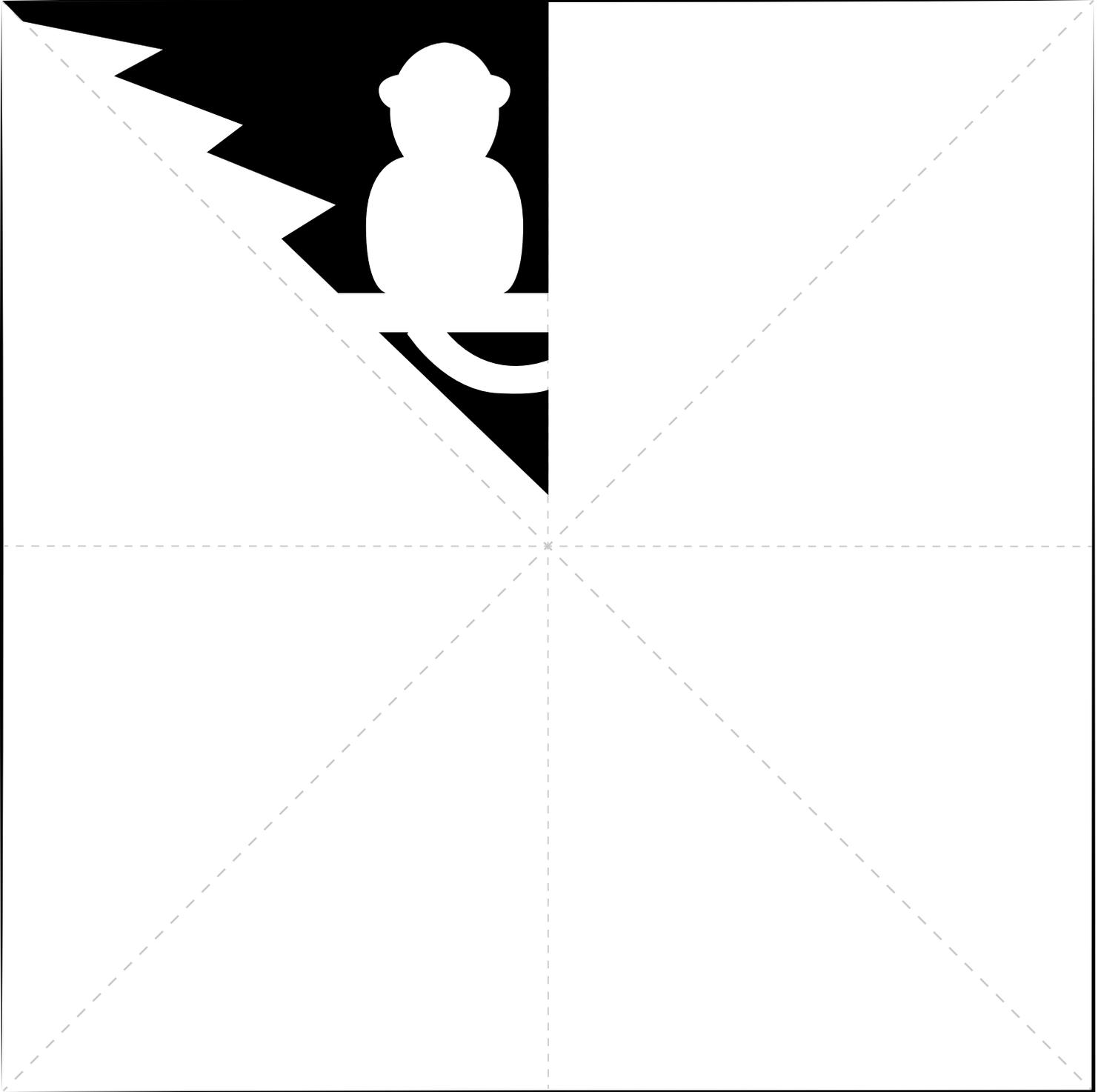
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4

# SNOWFLAKE TEMPLATE

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## 5

LET'S MAKE  
A KITE!

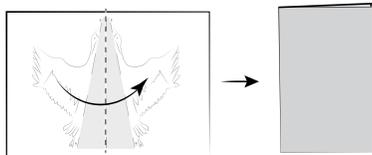
诞生在中国

**K**ite making and kite flying are two popular activities in China during seasonal holidays. Kites often depict culturally significant animals and are traditionally made of paper and bamboo. Use the directions below and the red-crowned crane template on the next page to build your own endangered species kite, or use a blank sheet of paper and your imagination to create your own animal design. Don't forget to get outside when you're all finished to try it out!

**You'll need:**

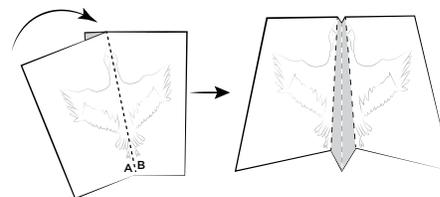
- 8.5x11 inch sheet of paper
- hole punch
- bamboo skewers
- string
- crayons or markers
- tape

1



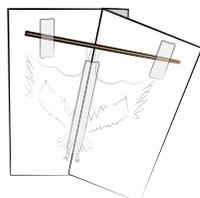
Lay your paper in landscape orientation with the drawing up. Fold in half along the center line then reopen.

2



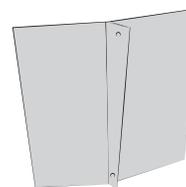
Make a crease along fold line A. Then crease fold line B. Bring the creases together.

3



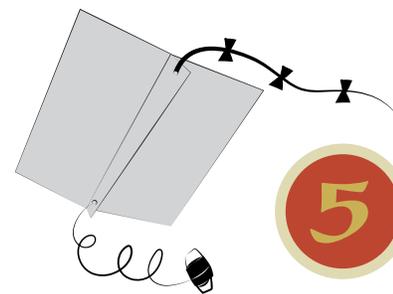
Tape the center crease to stabilize the kite and tape the stick between the two widest points.

4



Flip the kite over and punch two holes – one at each end of the middle fold.

Decorate your kite on one side or both! Then attach your kite string at the thinner end of the middle fold and attach a tail at the wider end. A tail can be made of extra string, recycled newspaper or some streamers. Finally, you're ready to test your kite.



5

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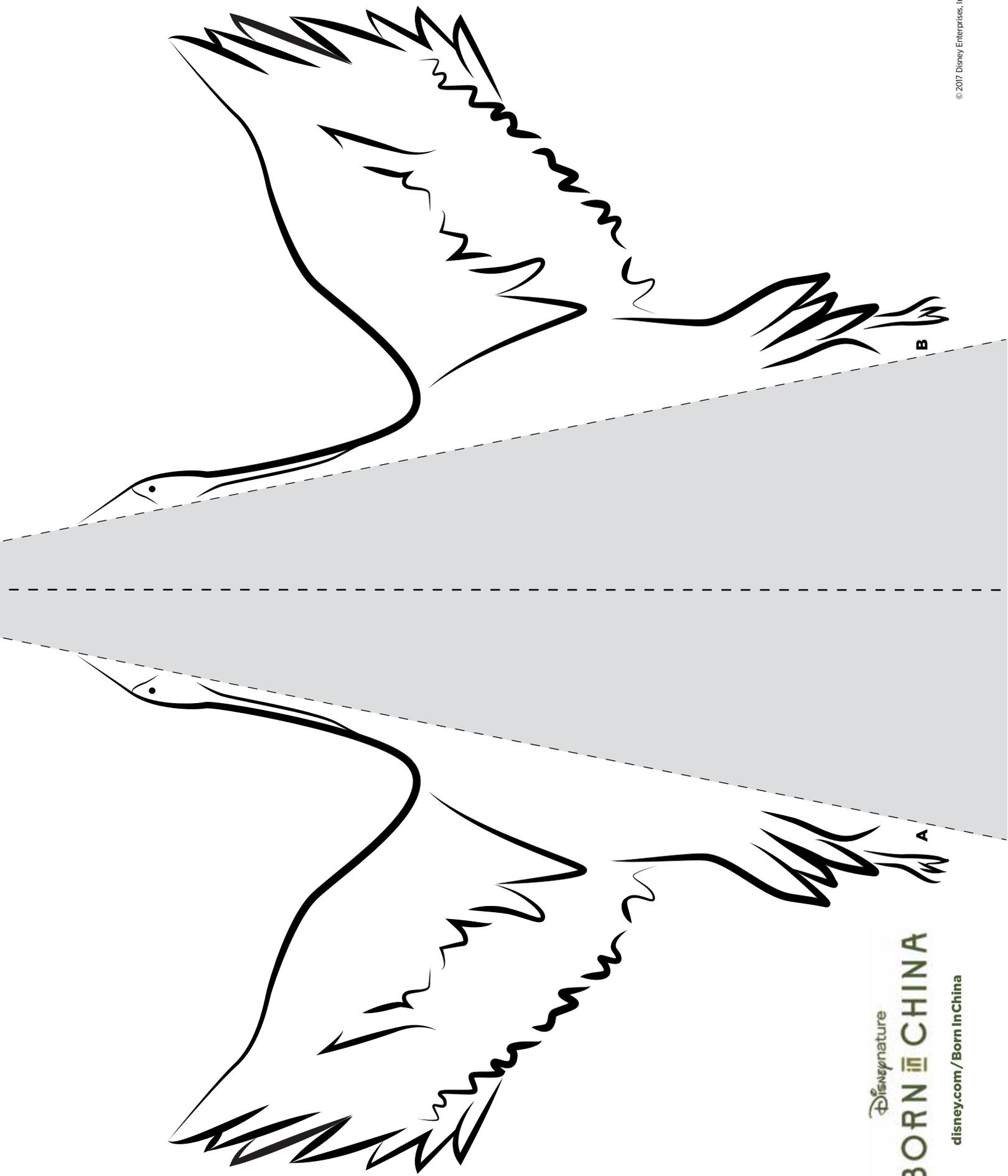
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