

Beyond the Panda

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Beyond the Panda

Beyond the Panda is a three part outreach programme from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). It is aimed at P5-P7 level:

1. **The Panda**—*Learning* about the giant panda
2. **China**—*Discovering China* - past and present
3. **Our World**—*Taking action* in our world

Part 1: The Panda

A RZSS outreach session all about the giant panda.

An interactive session which will involve:

- *building a large scale jigsaw featuring a habitat map of China*

The children will be able to explore the many different habitats and in particular look at the giant panda's now much decreased and isolated bamboo forests. Through various workstations and using some unique resources the following topics will also be investigated:

- *the giant panda's evolution*
- *biology of the giant panda*
- *classification of some Chinese vertebrates and invertebrates*
- *adaptations of the giant panda - in particular the development of a pseudo thumb*
- *a closer look at bamboo, the panda's main food*

The session will conclude with a short PowerPoint presentation looking at:

- *RZSS panda conservation breeding programme and research.*

Part 2: China

A RZSS resource pack which will include references to resources and organisations in order to discover more about China. In particular, the Scottish China Education Network and the Confucius Institutes, including the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools and Confucius Hubs. There will also be ideas for discovering Chinese calligraphy, language, art and dance, along with learning about Chinese history and politics.

Competition: In partnership with the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, classes are invited to write a short story inspired by anything they have found out about China and Chinese culture which can relate to Scottish culture. The story can be written in script or animation format.

Closing date for entries is Friday 31st January 2014.

The stories will be presented to the Premier of China when he is next in Scotland. The class with the winning entry will be translated into Chinese and Gaelic and displayed on the RZSS website. There will also be a special panda prize for the winning class.

Part 3: Our World

Having learnt and discovered about the giant panda and China, we ask the children to take action. RZSS will help create a pathway and in some selected cases, fund events, leaflets, lectures, debates, etc. developed and organised by the children. The children will be asked to submit ideas using the knowledge they have gained from the programme. **Ideas submitted by 4th April 2014.**

Beyond the Panda -

Curriculum for Excellence

Beyond The Panda covers many subject areas and involves the child in investigating, discovering and interpreting. Other aspects within the curriculum are studied but the key outcomes are listed below.

The CfE experiences and outcomes have been listed under the three sections of the 'Beyond The Panda' programme – 'The Panda', 'China' and 'Our World'.

The programme is designed for P5-P7, covering the Second Level, and the CfE codes are listed. Under each is a brief reference to the topic which will be covered.

Part 1: The Panda

Sciences - Planet Earth – Biodiversity and interdependence

SCN 2-01a:

I can identify and classify examples of living things, past and present, to help me appreciate their diversity. I can relate physical and behavioural characteristics to their survival or extinction.

Outreach - Evolution of the giant panda and classification. Adaptations of the giant panda to its environment and the threats which have caused it to become endangered.

SCN 2-14a:

By investigating the lifecycles of plants and animals, I can recognise the different stages of their development.

Outreach – lifecycle and development of the giant panda; recognising different parts of the bamboo plant and how it grows.

Topical science

SCN 2-20a:

Through research and discussion I have an appreciation of the contribution that individuals are making to scientific discovery and invention and the impact this has made on society.

Outreach – RZSS conservation and research work.

Social Studies - People, past events and societies - People, place and environment

SOC 2-08a:

I can discuss the environmental impact of human activity and suggest ways in which we can live in a more environmentally-responsible way.

Outreach – giant panda habitat destruction; rebuilding and reintroduction to the wild.

SOC 2-14a:

To extend my mental map and sense of place, I can interpret information from different types of maps and am beginning to locate key features within Scotland, UK, Europe or the wider world.

Outreach – comparison of different maps of China – habitat and political maps.

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Curriculum for Excellence

Part 2: China

Social Studies - People, past events and societies - People, place and environment

SOC 2-01a:

I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.

Discovering China – history and civilisation of ancient China.

SOC 2-04a:

I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.

Discovering China – comparison of Scotland and China.

SOC 2-06a:

I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence.

Discovering China – the progress of China today.

People in society, economy and business

SOC 2-19a:

By comparing the lifestyle and culture of citizens in another country with those of Scotland, I can discuss the similarities and differences.

Discovering China – culture today in China; story competition.

Literacy - Writing - Organising and Using Information

LIT 2– 26a:

By considering the type of text I am creating, I can select ideas and relevant information, organising these in an appropriate way for my purpose and use suitable vocabulary for my audience.

Discovering China – story competition.

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Curriculum for Excellence

Part 3: Our World

Sciences - Planet Earth – Biodiversity and interdependence

SCN 2-02a:

I can use my knowledge of the interactions and energy flow between plants and animals in ecosystems, food chains and webs. I have contributed to the design or conservation of a wildlife area.

Take Action – contribution to education and conservation work of RZSS.

Topical Science

SCN 2-20b:

I can report and comment on current scientific news items to develop my knowledge and understanding of topical science.

Take Action – take part in debate/lectures

Expressive Arts – Participation in performances and presentations

EXA 2-01a:

I have experienced the energy and excitement of presenting/performing for audiences and being part of an audience for other people's presentations/performances.

and

Drama

EXA 2-13a:

Inspired by a range of stimuli, I can express and communicate my ideas, thoughts and feelings through drama.

Take Action – take part in a 'Scratch Panto' (an idea proposed by RZSS)

Art and Design

EXA 2-03a:

I can create and present work that shows developing skill in using the visual elements and concepts.

Take Action – create posters/leaflets

Beyond the Panda -

Beyond the Panda will run from September 2013 until April 2014, although part 3, taking action in our world may take place from April to June 2014.

To take part and book an outreach session:

The package which includes the outreach session, the resource pack* and involvement in taking action in our world costs £100 per session. [Edinburgh and Lothians]

If a school would like 2 outreach sessions in one day– i.e. a morning and afternoon session for two classes, the cost would only be £150 for the two sessions. [Edinburgh and Lothians]

Please note:

Distance surcharge of £50 if over 50 miles from Edinburgh (excluding ferry charges – please enquire re costs for Highlands and Islands).

There are a limited number of bookings available on a first come, first served basis.

To book contact

Sandie Robb, Senior Education Officer, Discovery and Learning

srobb@rzss.org.uk

Take Action in our world

RZSS will help in various ways with the children taking action in our world. This may include offering a venue and expertise from our staff. A **selected** number of ideas submitted may also receive some funding. **Ideas will be accepted throughout the year.** Final date for submission of ideas is **Friday 4th April 2014.**

Resource Pack

*Please note that the cost of the package **does not** include any sessions or activities which your school may decide to book with the other organisations listed in the resource pack.

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Evaluation

RZSS would like to evaluate the learning outcomes of this outreach. A major part of this will be with the ideas submitted in part 3 of the programme. The ideas from the children, and the actual development of them will help to evaluate the effect of the programme.

Entries to the story competition will provide excellent evaluation for the 'Discovering China' section of the programme.

In addition to this, an Education Officer would like to visit selected schools at the end of the year (in May/June 2014) and personally ask the children involved a short questionnaire. We would very much appreciate your cooperation.

