Thomas and the Giant Pandas

Lesson Plan

Ladybird Readers

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Beginner

Thomas and the Giant Pandas
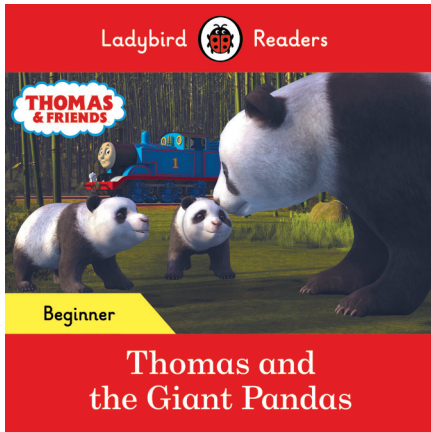
Thomas finds giant pandas in China.

CEFR Level First Phrases

Text type: modern story

Word count: 88

Lexile measure: 170L

Lesson objectives

Vocabulary focus

Animals: *black bear, giant panda, red panda*
Verbs: *find, go, play, say, see(s)*
General: *baby, China, forest, mother, people*
Phrases: *Goodbye! Let's . . .*

Aims

- understand conversational phrases
- read/listen and respond to the story
- follow a repeated sequence of events
- recognize key words in context

Resources

Reader
Audio download (UK/US) tracks 1–5
Phrase cards download 1–3
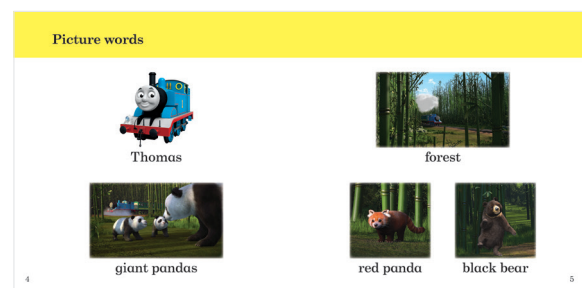
Timing: 20–30 minutes

This is to be used as a general guide and will depend on group size, the pace of learning, and the children's language ability.

We would suggest 5 minutes for **Before reading**, 15 minutes for **During reading**, and 5 minutes for **After reading**. Additional time can be used for further activities.
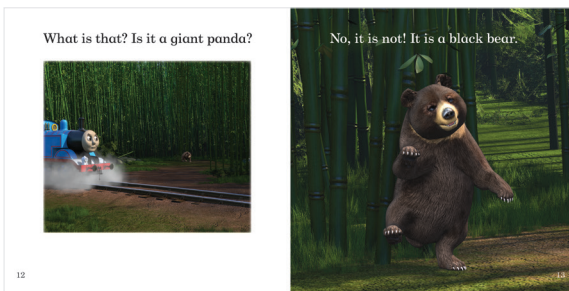
Lesson plan

Before reading

Show the children the cover of the Reader, but hide the title. If the children don't know Thomas, introduce him and say *This is Thomas.* Show them the pandas and ask: *Do you know these animals?* Establish that they are pandas and they live in the forest in China. Ask more questions, for example: *How many pandas can you see? What colors are they? How many babies are there?* Reveal the title and read it out. Explain that *giant* means very big.

Picture words

Thomas

forest

giant pandas

red panda

black bear

Ask the children to look at Reader pages 4–5. Go over the three kinds of animals and help the children to differentiate between them. Establish that all the animals live in the forest in China. Ask: *Which picture shows a red/black animal? Which pictures show the forest?* Read out the vocabulary items and get the children to repeat them.

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During reading

Read out or play the recording of the text (Audio track 1). Stop after every couple of pages and before reading the story, ask the children to cover the text and look at the pictures. Give practice with *Is it? Are they?* For example, before reading Reader page 11, cover the text and ask: *What's this? Is it a black bear?* Elicit *No, it's a red panda.* Then ask the children to read the text to check if they were right.

After reading

Divide the children into two teams and organize a quiz. Children from each team take it in turns to ask a question for the other team to answer. For example, a child from Team A can ask: *Who goes into the forest?* Award points for correct questions and answers, and extra points for using different question words.

Talk about the animals in the story with the children. Ask: *Which is your favorite animal? What other animals do you like?*

Divide the children into three groups. Play the song (Audio track 5) on Reader page 24, and encourage the children to listen and join in. Each group can sing a different verse. Swap the groups around and repeat.

Differentiation

Extra support

Before the children do the Reader activities on Reader pages 20–23, display the Phrase cards one by one, but with the words covered. Elicit the phrases and practice saying them.

Extension

Fast finishers can draw an animal in the story, and write sentences about it. For example: *This is a giant panda. It is black and white. It lives in the forest.*

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