

Red Panda Ranger: Design a Dream Habitat!

Materials Needed:

- Paper and drawing supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils) **OR**
- Building materials (LEGOs, cardboard boxes, craft supplies like pipe cleaners, fabric scraps, natural items like twigs and leaves) **OR**
- Digital design tools (e.g., a simple drawing app on a tablet - optional)
- Access to the internet for research (e.g., reputable wildlife sites like National Geographic Kids, WWF, zoo websites – adult supervision recommended for safe searching)
- Notebook or paper for taking notes
- Scissors and glue (if using craft supplies)

Welcome, Future Red Panda Ranger! (Approx. 5 minutes)

Hello! Today, you're going on an exciting mission. Red pandas are amazing creatures, but they need our help. Your job will be to learn all about them and then use your creativity to design the perfect, cozy, and fun home for a red panda! Are you ready to become a Red Panda Habitat Designer and Conservationist?

Part 1: Red Panda Fact File! (Approx. 20-30 minutes)

Before you can design a home, you need to know who you're designing for! With adult help if needed, use the internet to research red pandas. Try to find out:

- Where do they live in the wild (what countries, what kind of forests)?
- What do they eat? (Hint: It's not just bamboo!)
- What are some of their cool adaptations? (Think about their fur, tail, paws, etc.) How do these help them survive?
- Are they solitary or do they live in groups?
- What are some threats they face in the wild?

Jot down at least 5 super interesting facts in your notebook. Pay special attention to what makes their natural habitat special!

Part 2: Operation: Dream Habitat Design! (Approx. 45-60 minutes)

Now for the main event! It's time to design an amazing and enriching habitat for a red panda. This could be for a zoo or a conservation sanctuary. Remember, it needs to be safe, comfortable, and stimulating for the red panda.

Your Mission:

1. **Choose your medium:** Will you draw your design? Build a model with LEGOs or craft supplies? Or create a digital layout?
2. **Think about what your red panda needs:**
 - **Shelter:** Where will it sleep and hide? Red pandas love trees!
 - **Food and Water:** How will fresh food (like bamboo and fruit) and water be provided?
 - **Climbing Structures:** Red pandas are excellent climbers. Include lots of branches, platforms, or ropes.
 - **Enrichment:** What can you add to keep the red panda busy and happy? (e.g., puzzle feeders, scent trails, different textures)

- **Safety:** How will you make sure the red panda can't escape and is safe from harm?
 - **Climate:** Red pandas prefer cooler temperatures. How might your habitat design reflect that?
3. **Create your Design:** Start drawing, building, or digitally crafting your red panda dream home! Label different parts of your habitat to explain their purpose. Be creative! What unique touch can you add?

Challenge: Can you incorporate at least three specific features you learned about from their natural habitat into your design?

Part 3: Panda Protector Pledge! (Approx. 15-20 minutes)

Learning about animals also means learning how to protect them. Red pandas face threats in the wild, like habitat loss and poaching.

Your Task:

1. Based on your research, think of **ONE creative and practical thing** a 10-year-old like you could do or suggest to help red panda conservation. This could be something to do at home, in your community, or a way to spread awareness.
2. Write down your idea. Maybe you can even draw a little poster for it!

Examples:

- Organize a "Pennies for Pandas" collection to donate to a conservation group.
- Create an informational video or comic strip about red pandas to share with friends.
- Write a letter to a local representative about protecting forests.
- Commit to learning more about products that use sustainable resources to help protect forests.

Part 4: Habitat Showcase & Conservation Chat! (Approx. 10-15 minutes)

It's time to present your amazing work!

- Show your designed habitat to a family member or friend.
- Explain the different features of your habitat and why you included them. Point out how it caters to a red panda's needs and natural behaviors.
- Share the three coolest adaptations of red pandas that you learned.
- Tell them about your "Panda Protector Pledge" idea for conservation.

Awesome Work, Red Panda Ranger!

You've done a fantastic job learning about red pandas, creatively designing a habitat, and thinking about how to protect these wonderful animals. You've shown great application of your knowledge and brilliant creativity! Keep being curious about the amazing animals around our world!