

Get ready for an exciting adventure into the world of the super cute and super skilled red panda!

## Let's Meet the Red Panda! (10 minutes)

Today, we're going to become experts on red pandas! Imagine a creature that looks a bit like a raccoon, a bit like a bear, but is actually in its own unique family! That's the red panda! They are also called "firefoxes" or "lesser pandas."

### Cool Red Panda Facts:

- **Where they live:** High in the mountains of Asia, in forests with lots of bamboo (like in the Himalayas!).
- **What they eat:** Mostly bamboo, but also fruit, acorns, roots, insects, and eggs. They have a special "false thumb" (an extended wrist bone) to help them grip bamboo.
- **Super Climbers:** They are amazing acrobats and spend most of their time in trees. Their long, bushy tails help them balance. They can even climb down trees headfirst!
- **Shy and Solitary:** Red pandas are usually shy and like to be alone or in small groups.
- **Keeping Warm:** Their thick fur keeps them warm in the cold mountains. They even have fur on the soles of their feet to help them walk on snow and ice!

*Teacher Tip: Show pictures or short video clips of red pandas climbing, eating, and resting. Ask: "What do you notice about the red panda's tail? Why do you think it's so bushy?"*

## Activity 1: Create Your Own Red Panda! (20-25 minutes)

Now it's time to get creative! Let's make our own red pandas. You can choose one of these ideas, or come up with your own way to show what you've learned:

1. **Red Panda Mask:** Use a paper plate, construction paper, glue, and crayons/markers to create a wearable red panda mask. Don't forget the white pointy ears and face markings!
2. **Red Panda Puppet:** Decorate a paper bag or sock to look like a red panda. You can use it to tell a story later!
3. **Draw/Paint a Red Panda in its Habitat:** Use your art supplies to draw or paint a red panda in its forest home. Try to include bamboo and trees.

Remember to include some special red panda features, like their reddish-brown fur, long bushy tail, and maybe their "false thumb" if you can show them holding bamboo!

## Activity 2: Red Panda Adventure Story! (15-20 minutes)

Imagine you are a red panda for a day! What would you do? Where would you go? What would you see?

You can either:

- **Tell a story aloud:** Use your red panda puppet or mask if you made one!
- **Draw a comic strip:** Show your red panda's adventure in pictures.
- **Write a short story:** If you like writing, write a few sentences about your red panda's day.

**Story Starter Idea:** "One sunny morning, Rusty the Red Panda woke up in his cozy tree hollow. He stretched his long, bushy tail and decided today was a perfect day for an adventure to find the juiciest bamboo shoots..."

## Wrap-up: Red Panda Show and Tell! (5-10 minutes)

Let's share our amazing red panda creations and stories!

- Show your artwork or puppet.
- Tell us one thing you learned about red pandas today that you found super interesting.
- Why are red pandas such special animals?

Great job exploring the world of red pandas today! You're now a red panda expert!

**Did you know?** Red pandas are an endangered species, which means there aren't many left in the wild. It's important to protect their forest homes so these beautiful animals can survive.