

A

Besides, pandas also play a crucial role in China's bamboo forests by spreading seeds and helping the vegetation to grow.

B

That dropped dramatically in the 1980s, in part because of a periodic natural die-off of bamboo.

C

A jaw from Spain puts an early panda relative at 11.6 million years old, while DNA evidence suggests 18 million years old.

D

Giant pandas are masters of adaptation.

E

The exact timing and reason for pandas going vegetarian is debated.

F

In fact, it requires a massive effort, with teams of researchers spending many hours trekking through steep, mountainous bamboo forests looking for tell-tale signs.

G

That problem hasn't gone away since the species was labelled endangered in 1990.