

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## How Does a Panda Move?

Pandas may look slow and clumsy, but they are actually quite skilled at moving in their natural environment. Pandas mostly move by walking, but they can also climb trees and swim when needed. Their movements are designed to help them find food, escape danger, and navigate the bamboo forests where they live.

When walking, pandas move on all fours, placing most of their weight on

their front paws. They have a waddling gait because of their heavy bodies, but they can move surprisingly quickly over short distances if they sense danger. Pandas are not built for running long distances, so they usually rely on their climbing or swimming skills to escape predators or tricky situations.

Climbing trees is one of a panda's most impressive skills. Pandas have strong legs and sharp claws that help them grip tree trunks and branches. They often climb trees to escape predators or to find a safe place to rest. Baby pandas learn to climb at just a few months old, practicing on low branches until they become experts.

In addition to climbing, pandas are also good swimmers. They use their strong legs to paddle through rivers or streams, and their thick fur keeps them warm in the water. Swimming helps pandas travel across rivers in their forested habitats, allowing them to reach new areas with fresh bamboo.

Although pandas do not fly or run for long distances, their ability to climb and swim makes them well-adapted to their environment. These skills help pandas survive in the wild and navigate the challenges of their mountainous, forested homes.

Pandas are careful movers. They do not waste energy, which is important because their bamboo diet is low in nutrients. By conserving energy and using their special movement skills, pandas can live and thrive in their unique habitat.