

# Unit 19

## Vocabulary

7 Study the following words and expressions.

**danger** — опасность

**species** — вид, виды

**extinct** — вымирающий

**to hunt** — охотиться

**to damage** — наносить ущерб,  
разрушать

**the World Wildlife Fund** —

Всемирный фонд дикой природы

**priest** — священник

**giant panda** — большая панда

**rare** — редкий

**to disappear** — исчезать

**to survive** — выживать

**whale** — кит

**to weigh** — весить

**mammal** — млекопитающее

**high-pitched** — высокочастотный

**cruel** — жестокий

## Reading



8 Read the text.

## Animals in Danger

At present a thousand species are almost extinct because we hunt them or damage their environment. Here are some of the animals in danger. The World Wildlife Fund is fighting to save them.

The French priest, Pierre David, was the first European to see a giant panda in China in 1869. Today the giant panda is one of the rarest species in the world. There are perhaps only 300 of them left. It likes to live in bamboo forests, but these are slowly disappearing.

The giant panda can live for up to 20 years, and a big male can weigh 150 kilograms. A new-born panda weighs only 125 grams and measures less than 15 centimetres. The female panda is 800 times heavier than the baby at birth and the baby is 3 — 4 months old before it can crawl. It is pinkish-white at birth without dark markings and the familiar black eyes.

## Man and Nature

Fortunately the Chinese government now protects the panda, so it should survive. The World Wildlife Fund uses the panda as its symbol.

The story of the whale has been another great wildlife tragedy. Some of these are the largest animals that have ever lived. A blue whale can weigh over 125 tonnes. Whales are mammals, not fish and they are highly intelligent. They send messages to each other over very long distances with high-pitched sounds.

Whales are now in great danger because hunters have killed too many of them. Modern ships and machines have made it easy to hunt these animals, and they are often killed in a very painful and cruel way. Some countries have agreed to protect the whale, but others have not and still kill too many.



### 9 Are these statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

1. The World Wildlife Fund is an organization fighting to save animals in danger.
2. It uses the whale and the panda as its symbols.
3. At present about ten hundred species are almost extinct.
4. It happens because people hunt them.
5. Today the panda is one of the rarest species in the world.
6. Whales and giant pandas are in great danger.
7. A whale is a giant fish: a blue whale can weigh over 125 tonnes.
8. Whales communicate with each other with high-pitched sounds.
9. Fortunately the Chinese government now protects whales.
10. Nevertheless, other countries still kill too many of them.