



INTERNATIONAL

RED PANDA DAY

Pandas in Peril

Game created by Amber Neilson,

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Goal: To introduce players to the many challenges of the lives of Red pandas.

Grades: 2+ (reading required)

Supplies:

- 40 circles (spot markers or circles drawn with chalk on ground)
- Laminated instruction cards
- 1 Dice per player/team & 1 Coin Cup for rolling (yogurt cups)
- Panda Coins in 5 containers

Background: Red panda's face many threats in the wild. Bamboo die offs and predation are natural threats. More common threats include poachers who sell them as pets or hunt them for their fur. They also suffer from habitat loss from farming, livestock and harvesting of firewood. The Red Panda has a naturally low birth rate (usually single or twin births per year), and a high death rate in the wild. The number of Red pandas in the wild is unknown because they are elusive and hide in the forest canopy. Because their true population numbers are unknown, red pandas are currently listed as a "vulnerable species", but researchers believe they are more likely "endangered". Red pandas are an SSP species (Species Survival Plan); The SSP program was developed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to help ensure the survival of endangered species in zoos and aquariums. Many conservation programs are helping to save red pandas by educating local communities about their important ecological role in the bamboo forest (i.e. spreading seed through their excrement) and by attempting to document accurate size of wild populations. Red Panda Network is one of these agencies.

Set-up:

- Arrange circles in a giant U-shape, preferably with significant space in between circles so participants have to travel. Place instruction card on every 3rd circle with the Start and End cards on opposite ends of the U. Where instructed, place a cup of panda chips next to the corresponding instruction card.
- Split players into teams of two (or it can be just individuals)
- Give each player/team a dice and empty Coin Cup.

Playing the Game:

- Introduce red pandas and their natural history. Explain they will become red pandas and face challenges, as well as birth offspring.
- Instruct “pandas” that they must walk like a red panda on all fours from space to space.
- Each “panda” begins on START and rolls the dice. If they do not land on an instruction card, they roll again. They continue rolling while they move around the U-shape. If the “panda” lands on an instruction card, they read the instructions and follow the directions. When a card instructs that they “birthed a panda”, they pick up a Panda Coin.
- Ask each team to wait patiently until the team in front of them has had time to move on. Do not pass another panda team.

Assessment:

- When the pandas all reach the end, ask each panda to share about their journey including their # of offspring.
- Ask them about the most positive and devastating part of their journey.
- Discuss actions around the world and at zoos that are currently taking place to save the red pandas
- Collect Panda Coins and Dice.

Adaptations:

- * For non-readers: Team with an adult reader or another student that can read.
- * For readers: Each camper is either in a team of two or completing the journey solo. To maximize participant experience, it is recommended that no more than 2 in a team be allowed.
- * Have students write or draw a story about their journey
- * Have student research red panda conservation and fundraise for a non-profit organization.



GAME CARDS

START

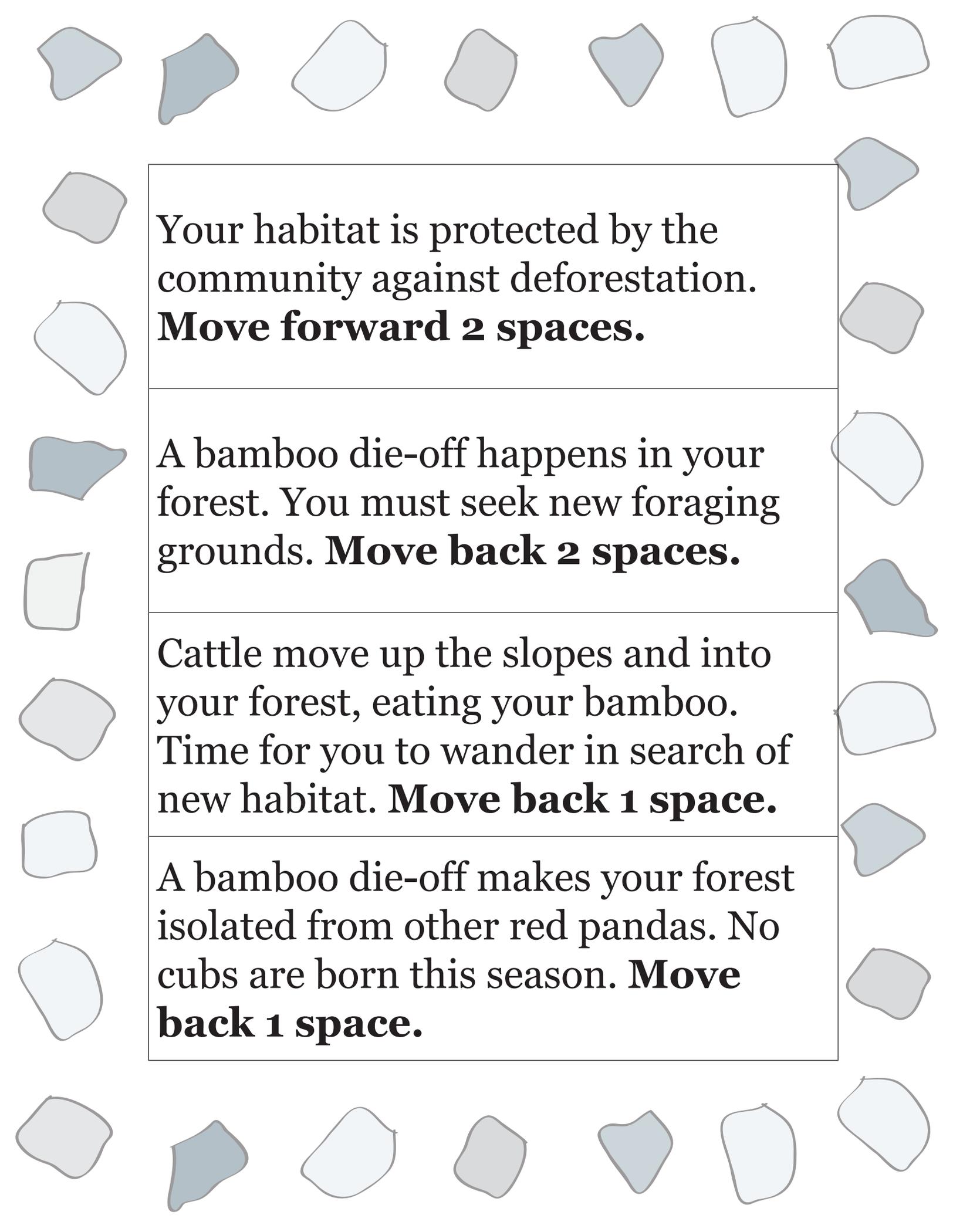
(Role the dice and move forward)

END

(Congratulations! You have survived the forest. Wait for further directions)

Your mating call is heard by another red panda and you birth a cub. **Pick up 1 panda chip. Move forward 2 spaces.**

A conservation organization replants a forest. Now you have a nice green corridor to travel through. You birth a cub. **Pick up 1 panda chip. Move forward 2 spaces.**

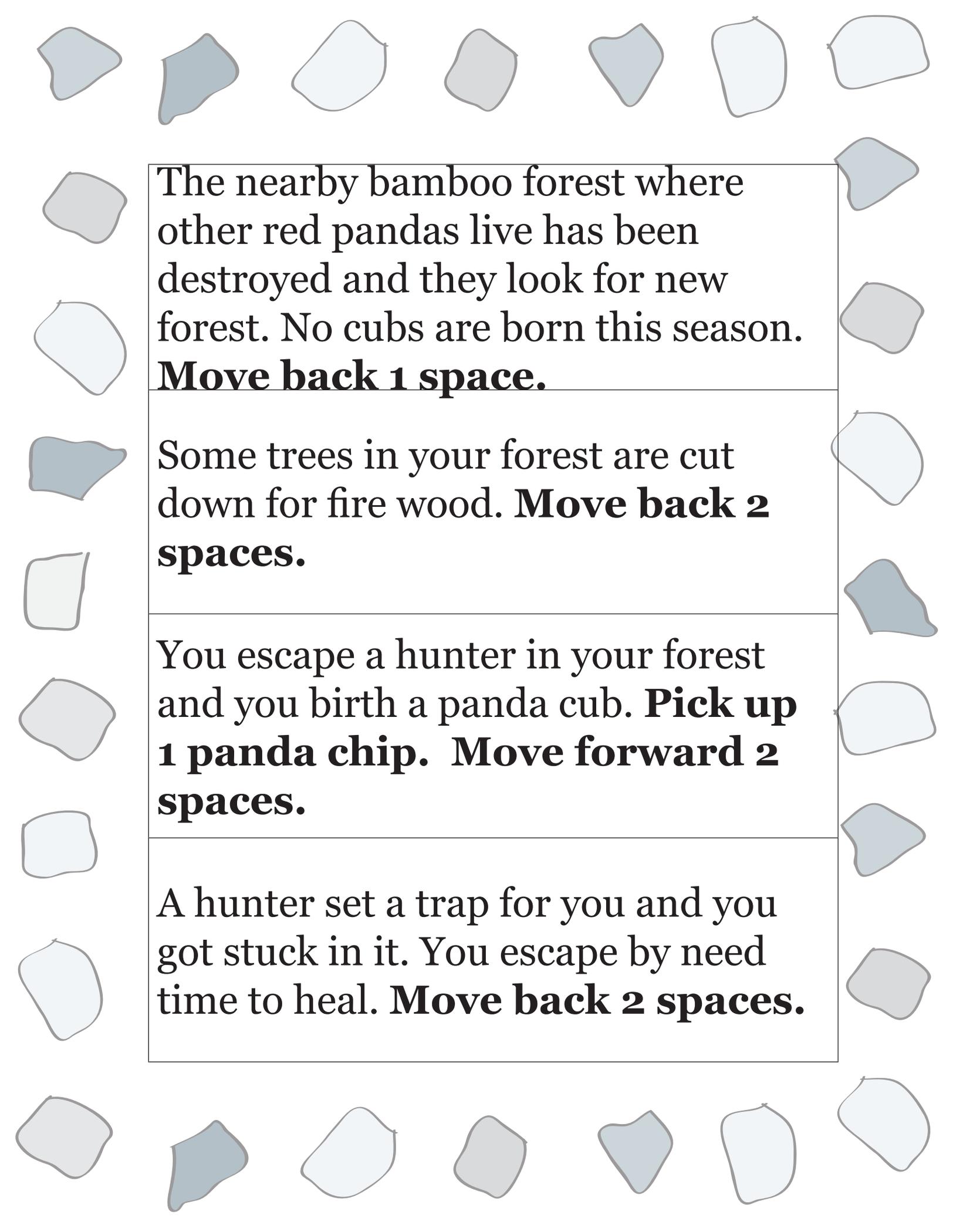


Your habitat is protected by the community against deforestation. **Move forward 2 spaces.**

A bamboo die-off happens in your forest. You must seek new foraging grounds. **Move back 2 spaces.**

Cattle move up the slopes and into your forest, eating your bamboo. Time for you to wander in search of new habitat. **Move back 1 space.**

A bamboo die-off makes your forest isolated from other red pandas. No cubs are born this season. **Move back 1 space.**

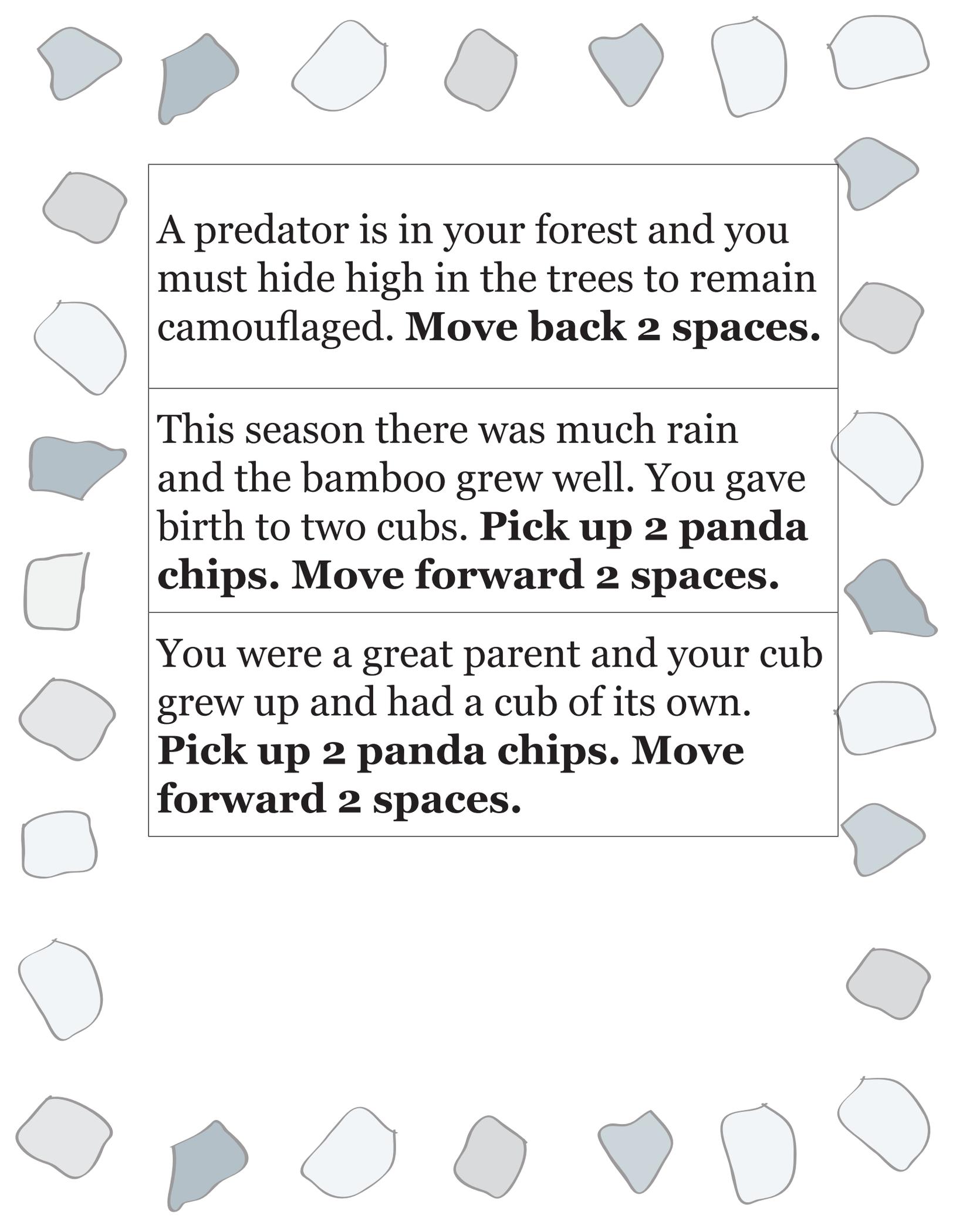


The nearby bamboo forest where other red pandas live has been destroyed and they look for new forest. No cubs are born this season. **Move back 1 space.**

Some trees in your forest are cut down for fire wood. **Move back 2 spaces.**

You escape a hunter in your forest and you birth a panda cub. **Pick up 1 panda chip. Move forward 2 spaces.**

A hunter set a trap for you and you got stuck in it. You escape by need time to heal. **Move back 2 spaces.**



A predator is in your forest and you must hide high in the trees to remain camouflaged. **Move back 2 spaces.**

This season there was much rain and the bamboo grew well. You gave birth to two cubs. **Pick up 2 panda chips. Move forward 2 spaces.**

You were a great parent and your cub grew up and had a cub of its own. **Pick up 2 panda chips. Move forward 2 spaces.**

Panda Chips

