

THE NEW FACE AT RIVER SAFARI



WRITTEN BY EMILY LIM
ILLUSTRATED BY ROBOT PLAYGROUND MEDIA



About River Safari

River Safari is a place where you can explore the great rivers of the world, including the Yangtze, Amazon, Mekong, Mississippi, Ganges, Nile and Congo Rivers. You will get to meet some of the fascinating animals that live in the rivers or along the rivers.

We hope that by visiting River Safari, you will learn more about animals that live in rivers and lakes. We also hope that we can help to keep our water bodies clean so that the animals living in the watery world can enjoy a safe and clean home.

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**“Do you know that Justin the Beaver is an expert builder?” Kai Kai said.
“I must get his help to build something for our baby.”**



**Jia Jia patted her growing tummy.
“Baby Panda, Papa wants to do so many things for you!”**



As they headed towards Justin's home,
they heard a loud buzzing sound along the Ganges River.



"Is that a giant bee?" Jia Jia asked.



A long thin snout surfaced.
"Hello, I'm Shant," the Indian Gharial said.
"Are you going to visit the beaver? A few others headed that way already!"



**"Yes, we need Justin's help to build something," Kai Kai said.
"I want to ask him how to build a sunbed," Shant said.
"Let's visit him together then!" Kai Kai said.**



When the giant pandas and Shant reached the Mississippi River, they saw a few familiar faces.



"Old Justin sprained his back while building his log cabin!" said Eva the Manatee.



"Why don't we all help him to finish his cabin?" Kai Kai said.
Justin's eyes lit up. "Will you do that?"



**"We have many wings, fins and paws here," said Eva.
"Yes, tell us what to do!" said Assam, the leader of the macaques.**



Justin's face brightened. "Well, we need more logs."
"Eva and I will get those," said Di the Stingray.



"Then, we need to saw them to the right length," Justin said.
"No problem," Shant said, baring his sharp teeth.



"I need strong vines to bind the logs," Justin said.
"Leave that to me," said Fu, the golden pheasant.



"I will also need strong stems to anchor the cabin," Justin said.
"I will get those!" said Hong, the red panda.



**"Finally, I need good climbers to put the roof together," Justin said.
The macaques swung into action.**



Jia Jia poured cold chrysanthemum tea for her thirsty neighbours while they worked.
Tired out, she headed home to rest.



Before long, Justin's log cabin was completed.



**"Maybe Justin can show us how to build the items we need,"
chorused Carlos and Carmen, the giant river otters.
"Of course I can!" Justin said.**



With Justin's directions, everyone worked together to build various things for their homes.



Chop chop! Bang bang! Saw-see-saw!



Soon, Shant was rolling around on his sunbed whilst Di tried out his rain shelter.



The macaques took turns jumping off their diving board.



**Carlos and Carmen tested out their raft.
Fu sat smugly on his stool before flying off to check on Jia Jia.**



Chitra the Turtle didn't want anything as her home was quite cramped.



And lastly, everyone helped build Baby Panda's present.



The sun was setting when Fu reappeared.
"Hurry back! Jia Jia is about to give birth!" Fu said to Kai Kai.



**Kai Kai rushed home.
The macaques followed the giant river otters in their new raft.
Di and Shant transported the others.**



And everyone got there just in time to hear ...



"Wah, wah, wah!"



The new face at River Safari had arrived!

About Giant Panda Babies

In the wild, giant panda cubs are born in tree hollows or rock crevices. The newborn cubs are pink, blind, almost hairless and completely helpless. Mummy panda stays with her baby for the first few days, and sometimes not even leaving the den to find food until a week later. She cradles her baby the way human mummies do with their babies.

Did You Know?

- The giant panda baby is the smallest of all bear cubs. It is 1000 times smaller than its mummy.
- A newborn giant panda measures about 15cm long and weighs only 100g. It can fit nicely into an adult's palm.
- Mummy panda carries her newborn baby in her mouth when she is on the move.
- Mummy panda usually gives birth to one cub at a time. When twins are born, she often rejects the weaker cub and only raises the stronger one. However, in panda reserves, keepers raise one cub in an incubator while panda mummy takes care of the other. The twins are swapped regularly and panda mummy ends up caring for both babies without even knowing.

Get more fascinating facts on Kai Kai, Jia Jia and other River Safari animals at www.riversafari.com.sg.

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Award-winning author Emily Lim is born and bred in Singapore. She is lousy at building blocks with her own “Baby Panda” but she is much handier at constructing story structures.

Robot Playground Media is a design, animation and content company based in Singapore. They tell stories with drawings and occasionally bring them to life.



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BUT THE OLD BEAVER HAS SPRAINED HIS BACK.
CAN KAI KAI GET A PRESENT IN TIME FOR BABY PANDA'S ARRIVAL?

Wildlife Reserves
SINGAPORE