

## Stolen Panda



After solving the mystery of the missing horse, Polly decided that she needed a vacation. Her best friend, Sally, just moved to Washington, DC, so she decided that the nation's capital would be a great place to relax.

Since this was Polly's first trip to D.C., Sally had taken off the week from work to give her a tour around the town. Tonight was the Boo at the Zoo event and Sally had reserved tickets for them to attend the event with her family. Sally works at the zoo, and even though today was her day off, she had to go in early to take care of a few things for the event that evening. Polly went in with her so they could have lunch afterward.

When Polly arrived, she saw colorful signs and flyers for the event. She picked up a flyer and started reading.

**Walk along the zoo tonight! You will see witches, vampires, Count Pandula, and other spooky sights — and get a fun photo opportunity in the end. Don't forget to bring your trick or treat bag for lots of candy at each animal habitat.**

"Polly, I have a special treat for you!" Sally said excitedly. "I talked to my supervisor, and he said I could give you a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo. The animals are just getting up, so let's hurry!"

"Yay! Luckily, I grabbed a zoo map while I was waiting. I have been looking it over and saw that the cheetahs are close by so we could start there," replied Polly.

"Great. Well, let's just go left, that way we can see the new baby panda last," said Sally.

Polly and Sally looked at the giraffes and elephants. Inside the elephant house, they saw two big hippos soaking in their deep pools. They saw the huge lions and tigers, and saw the cheetahs and wolves in their habitats, too. When they went to go look at the bears, they were resting in their cave.

As they were walking around the path at the zoo, Polly saw many workers and volunteers putting up Halloween decorations, such as ghosts, spooky lights, and motion detected statues of animals. As you approached an animal statue, it made a noise and some of them moved toward you. Trick or Treat stations were set up at each animal house stop, which were soon to be filled with candy for tonight's event.

"Wow, this event is really coming together! I can't wait to attend tonight with your family," said Polly.

"Yes, we work really hard to make it a safe and fun environment for the kids. We have over 40 Trick or Treat stations, animal demonstrations, and all the paths and areas are decorated for Halloween, along with lighted areas with animals and ghoulish ghosts. Our kids just love coming every year. My oldest daughter, Zoe, is a Girl Scout and her troop will be hosting the "boo-gie" family-friendly dance party with some frightfully fun karaoke tunes. We have other volunteers that will have special zoo animal encounters throughout the party, as well as meet-and-greets with Frankenpanda and Count Pandula. Hey, speaking of the pandas, make a left and we will be at their house," said Sally

“Okay, I wouldn’t want to miss the new baby panda!” exclaimed Polly.

When Polly and Sally arrived at the panda grove, they only saw Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, the two adult pandas.

“Where’s the baby panda?” Polly asked.

“Well, Tai Shan is usually by his mother, Mei Xiang. But, maybe he’s in the clinic getting a checkup. Let’s go ask the doctor,” Sally replied.

Polly and Sally walked around the panda grove until they came to a small door. Sally pulled out a small ring of keys, and slid one into the keyhole on the door. She turned the key, and the door made a small clicking noise, then opened.

They walked down a long cement walkway, then turned left into a large room. When they entered, a man in a white coat looked up from his desk and walked across the room to meet them.

“Hi Sally, I thought you were off this week on vacation. Is something wrong?” asked the doctor.

“Oh no, doctor, I was just coming in here to show my friend, Polly, Tai Shan. She’s visiting from out of town.” Sally turned to Polly and said, “Polly, this is Doctor Goodstein. He’s in the veterinarian in charge of newborns here at the zoo.”

“Pleased to meet you, Polly,” Dr. Goodstein shook Polly’s hand, then turned to Sally.

“Sally, I’m afraid that Tai Shan isn’t here. He had a checkup about an hour ago, so he should be in the feeding area of the grove right now.”

“No, Doctor, we just came from there, and he’s nowhere to be found,” Sally said, wringing her hands in worry.

“Well then, it seems we have a stolen panda!” the doctor exclaimed.

“Doctor, if I may be of some assistance, I’m a detective.” Polly said.

“Why yes, my friend here is a famous detective, Polly Paddington,” Sally continued.

“Polly Paddington! Well then, it seems we are quite lucky to have a person of your expertise in a time like this!” declared the doctor.

“Well, first, I think we should have all of the exits blocked, so that the panda can’t be taken out of the zoo. After that, if we can track down the zoo keeper that was in charge of the pandas at the time he went missing, we can get a statement,” continued Polly.

Polly was interrupted by a knock at the door. A man dressed in khaki shorts and a shirt was standing in the doctor’s doorway, a look of distress on his face.

“Bob! We were just talking about you,” Dr. Goodstein walked over to the man and put his arm around his shoulder.

“Polly, this is the zookeeper that brought Tai Shan to and from his checkup, Bob,” finished the doctor.

Polly took her notebook out and clicked her pen, ready to write down a statement from Bob.

“So, Bob, what do you have to say about the missing panda?” Polly looked at Bob suspiciously, with her eyebrow raised.

“That’s just it,” Bob answered, “My intern, Millie, was in charge of taking Tai Shan to and from checkup. She said she placed the panda in the feeding grove and went back inside to the get the bamboo stalks for the panda. She remembered coming back with an armful of bamboo and nudging the gate to the feeding grove to get in. She left to get more so he would have enough for the afternoon. She walked through the gateway and dropped the bamboo on the ground when she noticed that the baby panda was gone. The rotating snack cart for the visitors was parked in front of the feeding grove near the gate with no one around. As soon as she found out he was missing, she came to tell me. I told her we would look into it and said he was probably just hiding, he loves to play hide and seek, and I told her to just go ahead to her next duty for the day.”

“Do you suspect Millie of taking Tai Shan?” Dr. Goodstein asked Bob.

“No, She would never do that, she loves Tai Shan too much.” Bob answered.

“Well, I’d like to ask Millie that myself,” Polly said.

“She on snack cart duty now, I’ll take you to her. Let me look on the map and see where the rotating cart will be this time of the day,” Bob gestured for Polly to follow him, and they left to find Millie.

When they arrived at the snack station, Polly saw Millie and smiled. She had solved the mystery.

**Show the picture of the snack cart to the participants.**

Did you solve the mystery of the stolen panda?



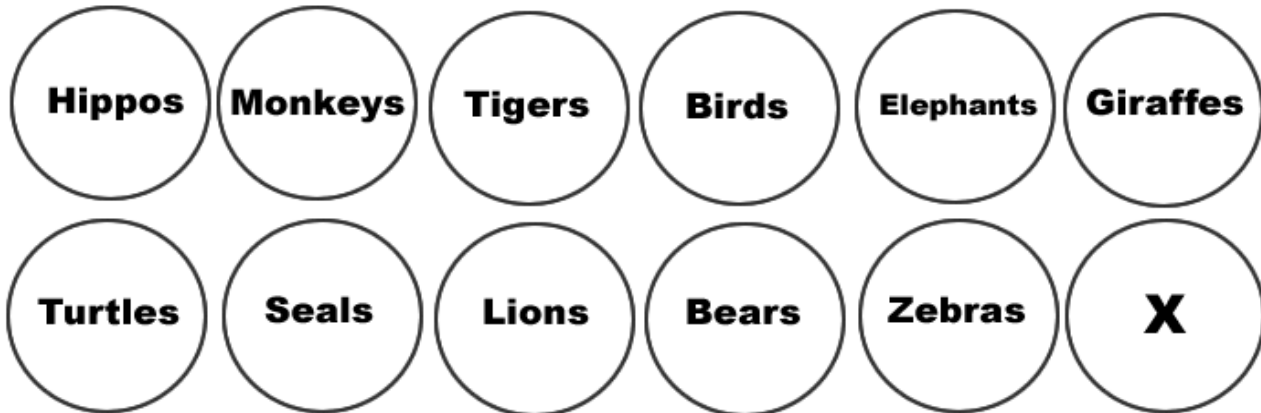
# Cut & Paste

Have the participants cut each square out and glue it in their detective notebook. If they don't have a notebook, then they can use a book or journal to hide their clue sheets.

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# Game

Cut the below pieces out. Take the X piece and set it aside. Choose a random piece and place it face down in the center of the game board. This piece will be where the cart and the panda is located. Add the X piece to the remainder of the pile and randomly place them on the various animal circles until all the pieces are used.



## Rules of the Game

### Object of the Game:

The object of the game is to go around the board and gather clues. After you gather all the clues, you can then solve the mystery of where the panda can be found. Write the findings in your detective notebook as you play the game.



### Playing the Game:

Gather 3-5 players to play this game. You will need a dice and game pieces.

The game board is a bird's eye view of a zoo. Get your pencil and detective notebook ready marking down all the clues as you visit the different areas of the zoo. You start the game at the starting gate of the zoo, it states "start here" on the shape. During your play, you may move backwards or forwards the number on the dice you rolled. It is up to you to remember or write in your notebook the areas you have already visited. You can also do this by make a special mark by the name of area, not in the box, that is where you check the clues off.



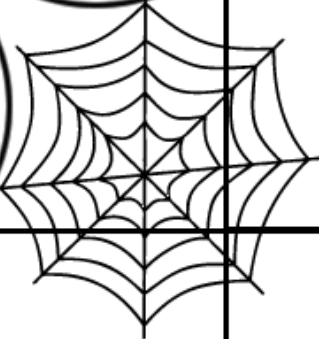
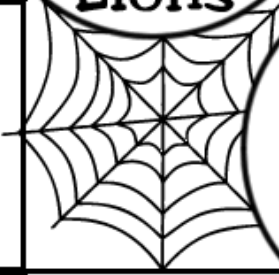
You must move into the animal circle to be able to see the clue, you do not have to roll the exact number. For example, if you roll a 6 and it is 4 spaces to the giraffes, then you can move directly to the giraffes, check the clue and then your turn is over. You can not check the giraffes clue and then move out 2 spaces. Your turn ends when you move the spaces on the dice or enter an animal area.

### Ending the Game:

When someone wants to make a guess of where the panda is then they can make a guess when it is their turn. This can immediately after they see the clue or any time during their turn. They must state, "I want to solve the mystery!" which is followed by, "I think the panda is in the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the animal area) hidden on the rotating snack cart." Then they look at the answer without revealing it to the other players. If they are correct, then they show the answer to everyone. If they are wrong, then they are out of the game. The game continues until someone solves the mystery correctly.



Polly and the Mystery of the  
**Stolen**  
Panda  
BOO  
at the  
ZOO





Hippos



Monkeys



Zebras



Seals



Parrots



Turtles