

Seven Characteristics of Living Things

Level: S1

Topic: Living things (Section 2.1 of Unit 2)

Introduction:

The ELA can be used at the beginning of Unit 2. This beginning section is selected for the ELA because students' common sense knowledge can be drawn upon for group discussion in both Cantonese and English.

The ELA is conducted in two lessons, the first lesson in Chinese, with English terminologies being introduced; and the second lesson in English. In the first lesson, students complete a classification activity to revise their concept of living and non-living things, which they have learned in primary schools. The seven characteristics of living things are then explained in Chinese; students will be taught the key words in English. Opportunities will be provided for students to read out the English terms. In the second lesson, students have to complete two English worksheets, one by identifying the seven common characteristics of an animal, and another one by writing short sentences about the activities of another animal that display the seven common characteristics. In each part of the activity, students are asked to report their answers in groups. The overall group activity proceeds from Cantonese as the medium of instruction to English as the medium of instruction, and from the English reading task to the English writing task. It is expected that as the group activity will start with something which the students are familiar with in terms of language and knowledge, they will be better engaged in the activity and more ready to help each other to complete the English reading and writing tasks.

Lesson Plan – Seven Characteristics of Living Things

Content After completing the activity, students should be able to:

Objectives: • identify the common characteristics of living things

Language After completing the activity, students should be able to:

Objectives: • understand and use the English terms related to the characteristics of living things (e.g., *breathe, food, move, grow, reproduce, react, stimuli, excrete, panda, dolphin*);

- comprehend short descriptions about the activities of an animal;
- state the seven common characteristics based on the activities of an animal (e.g., a panda) described in a worksheet, e.g.

1. *It breathes (It takes in air through its nose).*

2. *It moves (It uses its legs to walk and climb trees).*

3. *It needs food (It eats bamboo leaves).*

4. *It excretes (It leaves urine on the ground).*

5. *It reacts to stimuli (It runs away when another animal runs to it).*

6. *It reproduces (It gives birth to one baby each time).*

7. *It baby grows (It will become bigger and taller).*

- describe the activities of another animal (e.g., a dolphin) which displays the common characteristics of living things, e.g.,

1. *It breathes (When it comes up to the water surface, it blows out air through a hole on its head).*

2. *It moves (It uses its tail to swim).*

3. *It needs food (It eats small fish).*

4. *It excretes (It leaves urine in the water/sea).*

5. *It reacts to stimuli (It swims away from sharks/ships).*

6. *It reproduces (It gives birth to one baby each time/It gives birth to a baby in water).*

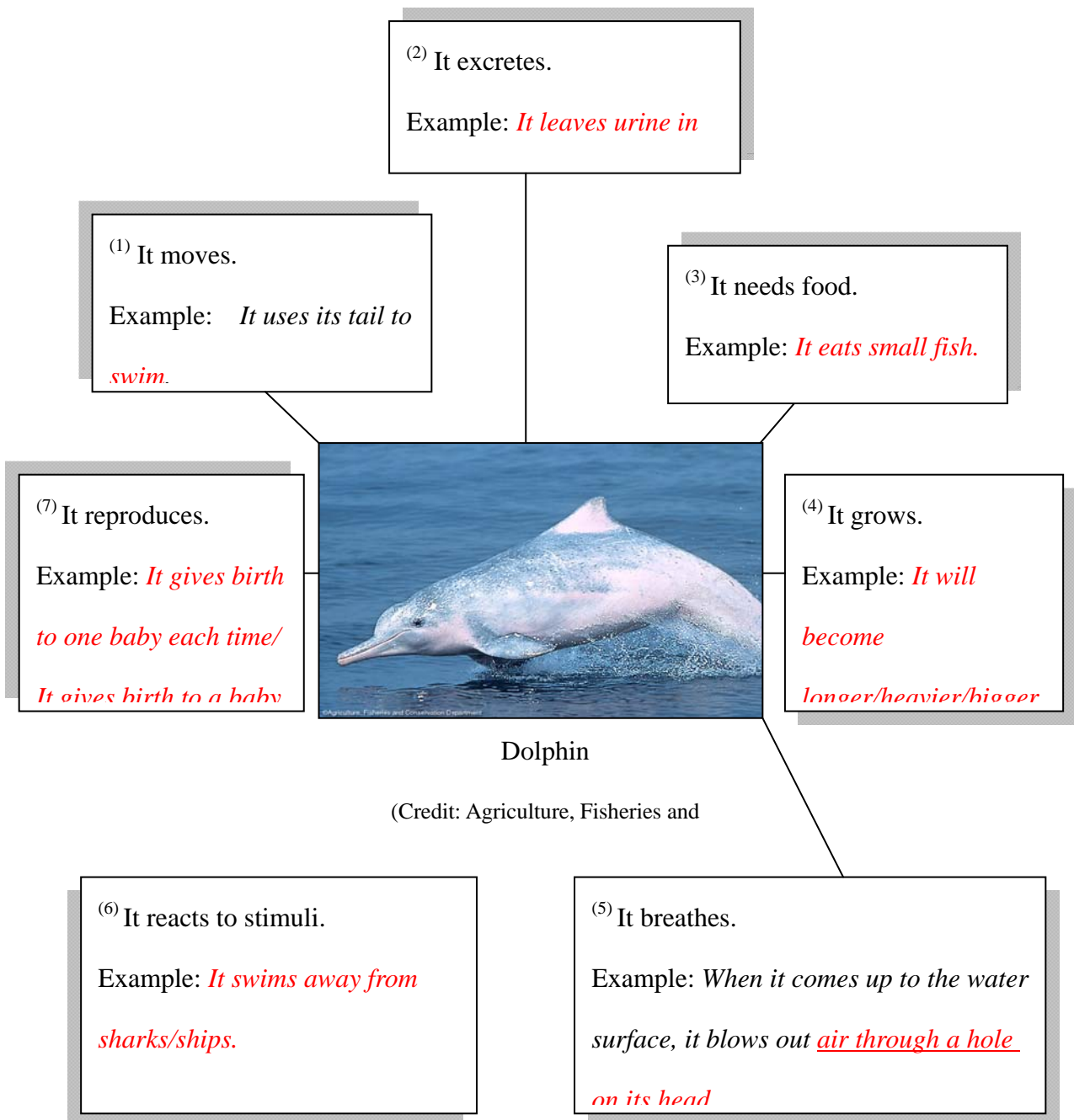
7. *It baby grows (It will become longer, bigger and stronger).*

Activities: Group activities:

1. 介紹生物的共通特徵 — 40 分鐘

2. Completing a worksheet on the seven common characteristics of an animal — 20 minutes
3. Describing the activities of another animal — 20 minutes

Materials: Worksheets, textbook



Steps:

介紹生物的共通特徵 — 40 分鐘

1. 分組活動：老師為每組學生提供一套（約 10 張）圖片，包括動物、植物和一些非生物，並指示學生將圖片分成兩類。由於學生在小學階段應已掌握生物和非生物兩個概念，估計大部份學生都能將圖片分成兩類。
2. 老師在黑板上張貼“生物 (living things)”和“非生物 (non-living things)”兩個字咭，著學生為每一類列舉一些例子。老師教學生唸出“living things”和“non-living things”兩個詞彙。
3. 老師張貼一種動物的圖片，並利用提問引出生物的七種共通特徵，並加以解釋。(老師的提問及講解可以以教科書的內容為基礎。)
4. 為配合下一節的 ELA，每當介紹一種生物特徵時，老師可將中、英文關鍵詞寫在黑板上，並讀出該詞彙。
5. 著學生總結生物的七種共通特徵，並著他們在課後閱讀教科書內相關的章節。

Consolidating the seven common characteristics of living things using an animal as an example — 20 minutes

6. The teacher goes through the seven common characteristics again in English and makes sure that students can pronounce the key terms.
7. The teacher distributes Worksheet 1 and tells students to complete the blanks, using the given words, which are about the seven characteristics of an animal. Then students should guess on what animal these special features are based.
8. Students work on the worksheet in groups. They are encouraged to discuss any difficult words with their group members first, and they should only ask the teacher when the group cannot solve the problem.

9. The teacher monitors the group work and offers help where necessary.
10. The teacher checks the answers by asking one student from each group to read out one characteristic of the animal.
11. After checking the answers, students are asked to give a few more examples of the activities of a panda that show any one of the seven common characteristics. The teacher jots them down on the blackboard.
12. The teacher concludes that the common characteristics of a living thing can be found in many activities of a panda.

Describing the activities of another animal — 20 minutes

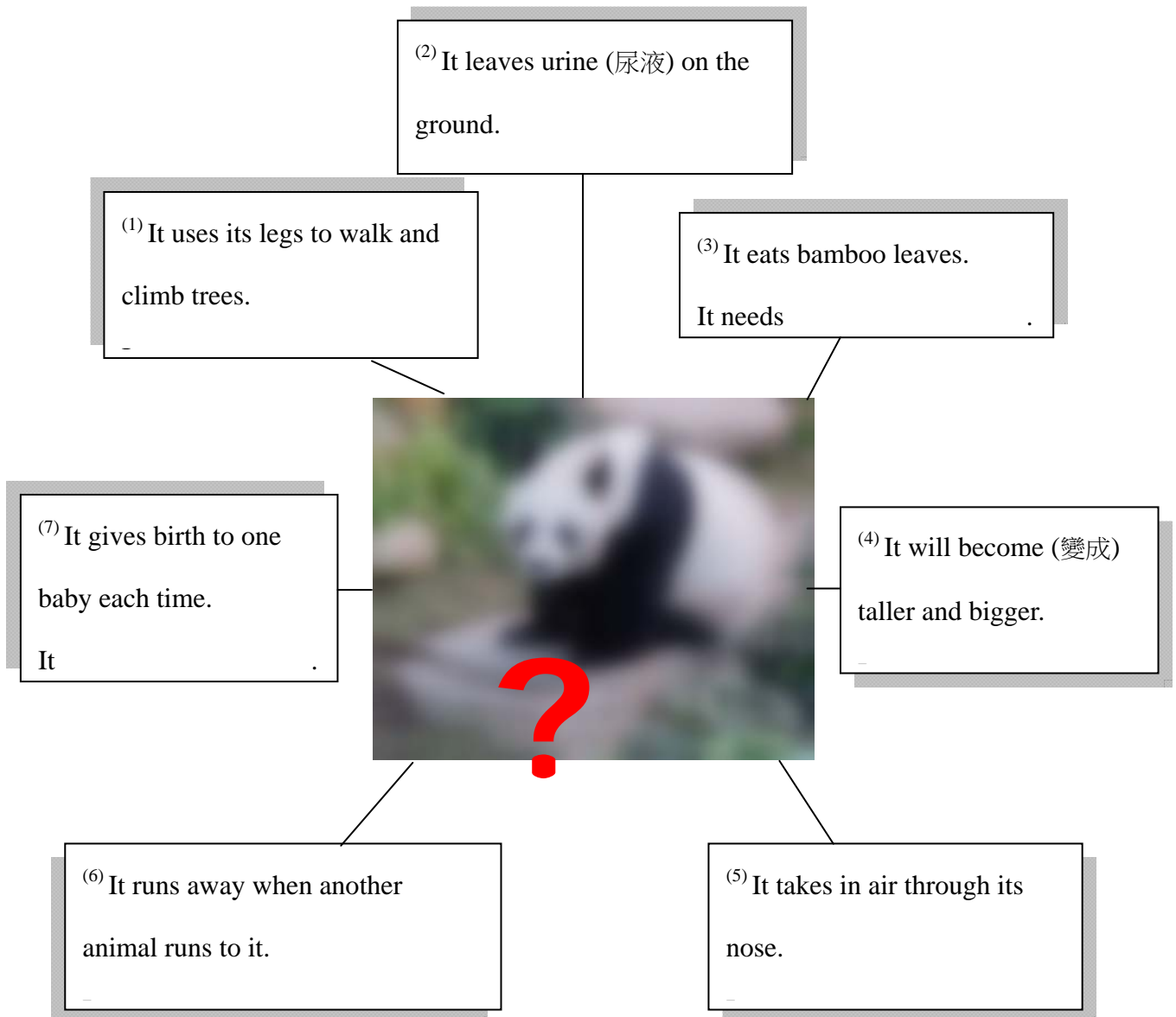
13. The teacher distributes Worksheet 2. Students are asked to complete the worksheet in groups. They may use the phrases in Worksheet 1 or their own words to describe the activities of a dolphin.
14. Depending on students' ability, the teacher may work together with the class for one of the answers as an example.
15. The teacher shows a blank worksheet on a visualizer and asks one student from each group to come out and write the answers on the worksheet.
16. The class is asked to judge whether each answer is acceptable in terms of content and grammar.
17. The teacher collects the completed worksheets for grading.

Seven Characteristics of Living Things (Worksheet 1)

The activities of the following animal show the seven common characteristics of living things.

Complete the following boxes with the words below and guess what the animal is.

breathes	food	moves	grows	reproduces	reacts to stimuli	excretes
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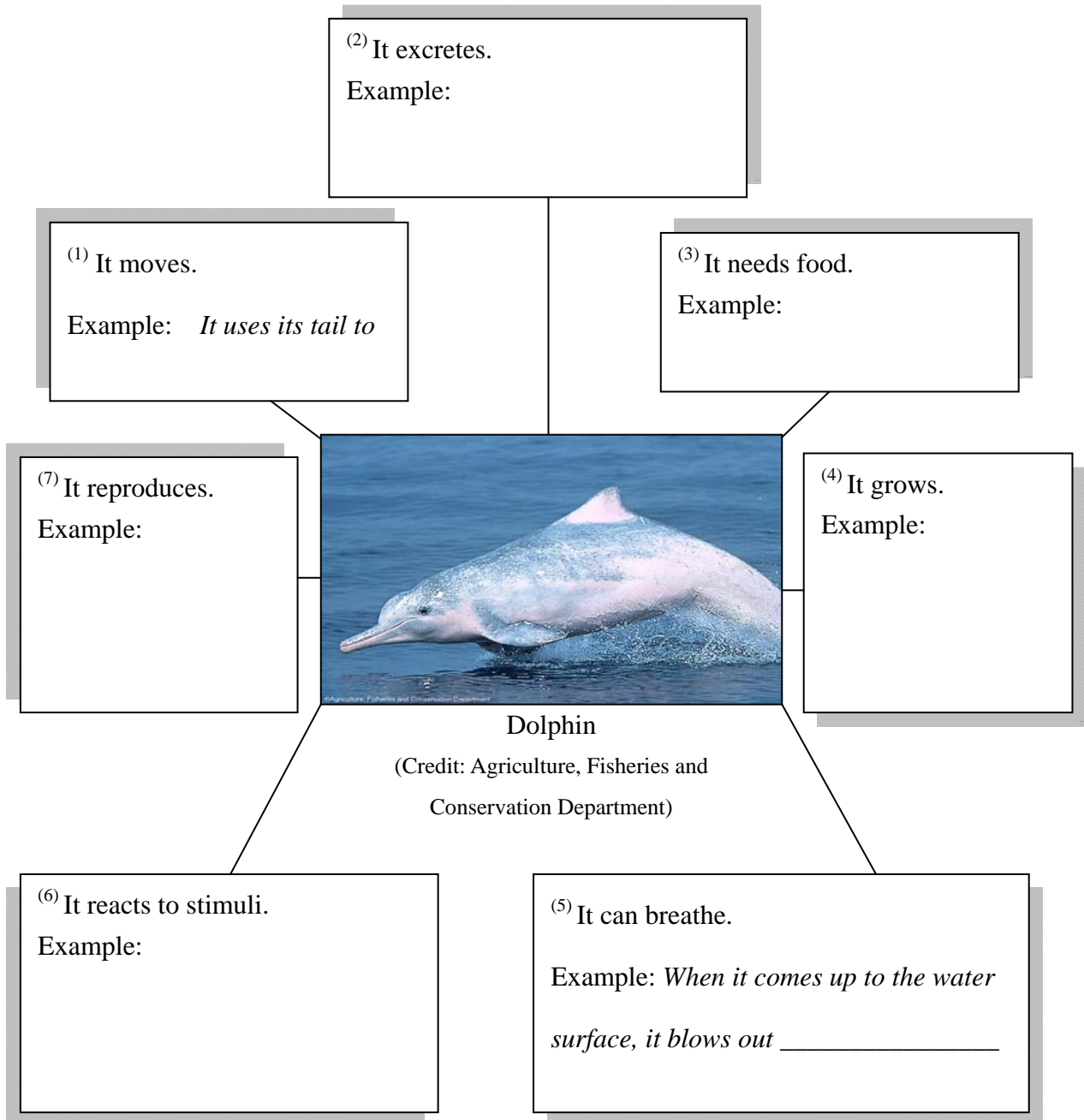
What is the animal?

It is a _____.

Seven Characteristics of Living Things (Worksheet 2)

The activities of a dolphin also show the seven common characteristics of living things.

In each of the following boxes, **give one example** of the characteristics of living things.

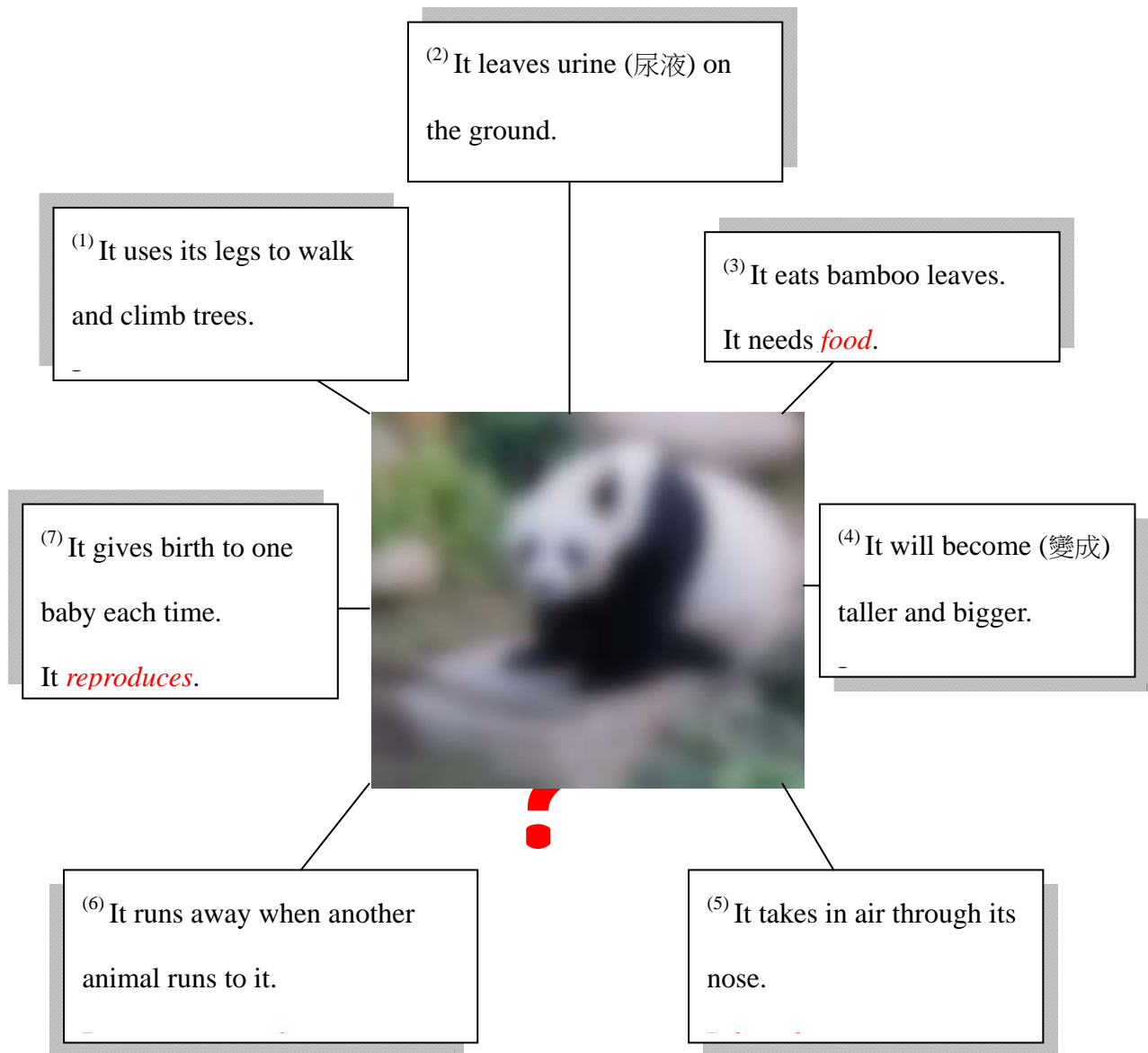


Seven Characteristics of Living Things (Worksheet 1)

The activities of the following animal show the seven common characteristics of living things.

Complete the following boxes with the words below and guess what the animal is.

breathes	food	moves	grows	reproduces	reacts to stimuli	excretes
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What is the animal?

It is a *panda*.

Seven Characteristics of Living Things (Worksheet 2)

The activities of a dolphin also show the seven common characteristics of living things.

In each of the following boxes, **give one example** of the characteristics of living things. You can discuss with your partner for the answers.

Accept any other reasonable answers

