

# Asia Valley Interp Binder



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# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Interpretive Cart Guidelines:

Working the cart is very simple: You only need to bring the keys, biofacts listed in this binder, and chairs with you. Everything else needed is locked in the cart which is already stationed in Asia Valley.

### When staffing the interpretive cart:

1. Take the interpretive cart keys, biofacts, and chairs (optional, located in the CEF building) with you.
2. Unlock the cart and attach the umbrella (found inside the cart) to the cart.
3. Place the mat on top of the cart.
4. Group and place the biofacts and laminated info sheets based on species.
5. **KEEP AN EYE ON BIOFACTS AT ALL TIMES.**
6. Small children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
7. Follow the talking points, for each animal/biofact, located in this binder.
8. If you have to leave, put everything away and lock it up. Do not leave anything unattended.
9. **REMINDER: Zooteens must always travel in pairs, unless stated otherwise!**
10. **At the end of the day**, put EVERYTHING back in the cart and lock it. (if you brought chairs, place them back to the CEF building and lock it)
11. Record each topic discussed during your shift in the binder.
12. Return keys and binder to where they belong in DC.

# Asia Valley Interp Binder

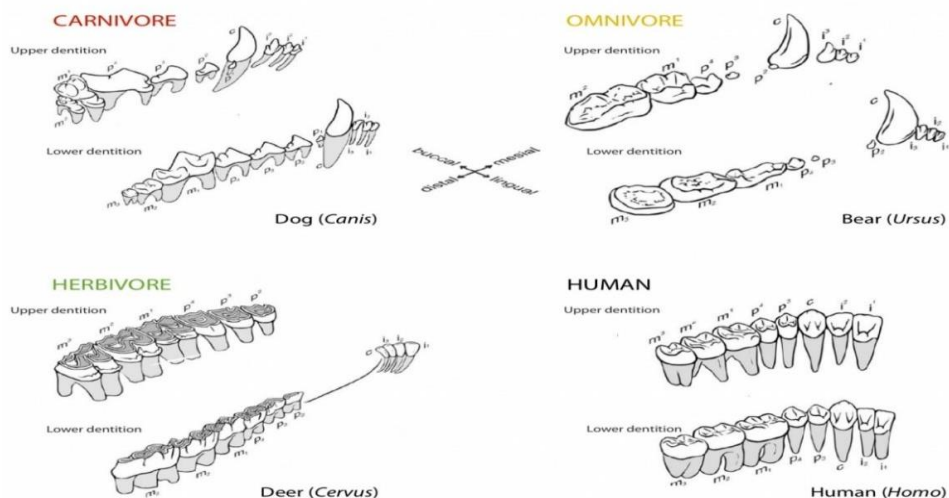
## Biofacts for Asia Valley Interpretation:

| Biofacts:                |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Biofact:                 | Use:  |
| Tiger Skull**            | Use to demonstrate carnivore dentition.   |
| Tiger Claw**             | Allow people to see and touch while talking about tigers.   |
| Bengal Tiger Paw Print** | Allow people to see just how large Bengal tiger feet are and Amur tigers are even larger because they are the largest tiger subspecies. |
| Sun Bear Skull**         | Use to demonstrate omnivore dentition.  |
| Takin Skull              | Use to demonstrate herbivore dentition.   |
| Camel Hair**             | Allow people to touch while you talk about the camels.  |

\*\* indicates that this biofact is located in the cart, anything in **bold** will need to be brought with you and taken back afterwards.

## Biofacts Talking Points:

1. Talk about skulls and how the jaw, teeth, and claws make the tiger a powerful hunter, the takin great at eating plants, and the sun bear a good forager.
  - a. The jaws look very different for carnivores and herbivores.
    - i. Tiger jaws and teeth are specialized for puncturing, ripping, and chewing meat.
    - ii. Takin jaws and teeth are specialized for eating tough grasses and foliage.
    - iii. While sun bear jaws and teeth fall somewhere in the middle, allowing them to eat both.



# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Animal Talking Points:

### Amur Tiger:

#### Habitat:

1. Amur tigers, formerly known as the Siberian tiger, are found in the mountain forests of eastern Russia, with a small part of their population ranging into China.
  - a. Because of their habitat, these animals have had to adapt to long winters, harsh climate, and the region's high latitudes.
2. Amur tigers are completely solitary animals, which means they live alone for much of their life.
  - a. Which is why you will never see both of our tigers out on exhibit together.

#### Physical Characteristics:

3. Amur tigers are the largest big cats in the world.
  - a. Male Amur tigers can grow to be up to 10 feet long from head to tail and weigh up to 450 pounds.
    - i. Females are usually smaller than males, weighing in anywhere from 240 to 290 pounds.
      1. Our girls:
        - a. Akasha: 285 pounds
        - b. Nuri: 235 pounds
4. Not unlike a human fingerprint, each Amur tiger has a unique striped pattern.
  - a. We are able to tell which one of our girls is which by the second stripe on the left side of their face.
    - i. Akasha's second stripe is not connected.
    - ii. Nuri's is connected and has a small knob on it.
      1. (show participants the laminated photo of the two tigers and how we tell them apart.)
5. The fur color of Amur tigers is also lighter than that of other tiger subspecies and gets even lighter during the winter.
  - a. They also have thicker fur and manes to keep them warm during the winter.
    - i. (have participants listen if the cat is walking around and then tell them.)
    - ii. Amur tigers also have thick fur that grows on their paws, this keeps their feet warm but also allows them to walk silently as they stalk their prey.
6. They have long retractable claws, which aids them in running and hunting.
  - a. (Show participants the tiger claw biofact here and let them touch it.)

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## Diet:

7. In the wild, Amur tigers eat elk, boar, and deer.
  - a. Amur tigers are ambush predators, which means that they stalk their prey until they are close enough to pounce.
    - i. Here at the zoo, our tigers get 10 pounds of meat per day each.
      1. They also get quail and other small things to find out on enclosure as a bit of enrichment.
  - b. (Optional) Because of naturally low levels of prey animals in the natural habitat of Amur tigers, they have very large hunting ranges.
    - i. A female's natural hunting range can be up to 170 square miles.
    - ii. A male's natural hunting range can be up to 770 square miles.
    - iii. This will most likely bring up the question- "*Why are they kept in an enclosure that is much smaller than what they would be in in the wild?*"
      1. Because our tigers are not hunting for their own food, they need much less space.
      2. Having Amur tigers (and many other endangered species) in AZA accredited zoos is instrumental in saving the species in the wild.
        - a. Zoos often conduct important research that tells us more about the species and in turns helps aid us in their conservation in the wild.
        - b. Zoos often participate in breeding and reintroduction programs to help conserve wild species and some species are so rare that they depend on breeding within zoos to survive in the wild.
        - c. Lastly, having these animals in zoos helps us teach the public about their species, habitat, and any concerns, in hope that it will inspire others to help save their species.

## Longevity:

8. In the wild, Amur tigers live about 10-14 years
  - a. In captivity they live up to 20 years.
    - i. Our girls:
      1. Akasha: 10
      2. Nuri: 11

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## Threats in the Wild and Conservation:

9. There are only about 400 tigers left in the wild today.
  - a. They are threatened by poaching of the tigers as well as their prey animals, tiger-human conflict, habitat loss, and use in traditional Chinese medicine.
    - i. *For more information on Amur tiger poaching for traditional medicine, refer to page 15.*
10. There are about 150 Amur tigers in AZA accredited zoos and most are part of conservation breeding programs.



# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Malayan Sun Bear:

### Habitat:

1. Malayan sun bears inhabit the dense lowland forests (including tropical evergreen rainforest and seasonally dry forests) in Southeast Asia, from the south of China all the way to the east of India and as far south as Indonesia.
  - a. Sun bears are highly arboreal, meaning that they spend most of their time in the trees.

### Physical Characteristics:

2. They have very long tongues and claws to aid them in foraging for insects, honey, and other small creatures that are found inside logs.
  - a. Sun bears have the longest tongues of all bear species.
    - i. Their tongues can reach 8 to 10 inches long.
  - b. Their long claws can exceed 4 inches and help them break into termite mounds and tear into trees to forage.
3. You also might notice the way they walk with inward facing feet.
  - a. It gives them a “pigeon toed” walk, this serves as a clue that their bodies really are not made for walking along the ground and those inward facing feet aid them in climbing and walking along the branches.
4. Sun bears are the smallest of all eight bear species.
  - a. They can be 3.5 to 4.5 feet long and can weigh 60 to 180 pounds.
5. The name “sun bear” comes from the distinctive patch of golden colored fur that you see on their chests.
  - a. Legend says that this patch resembles the likeness of the setting sun.
    - i. Each individual sun bear has a unique patch, much like a human fingerprint.

### Diet:

6. Sun bears are true omnivores like most bear species.
  - a. In the wild, they eat small vertebrates like birds, rodents, and small lizards. They also eat fruits, honey, bees’ nests, eggs, termites, and roots.
    - i. At the zoo, Fong receives a very balanced diet of fruits (bananas, apples, and oranges), veggies (carrots, romaine lettuce, and whole corn), and omnivore pellets. As well as a beef bone once a week for dental health and enrichment purposes.
      1. To encourage natural foraging behavior, keepers hide food in logs and puzzle feeders.

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## Behavior:

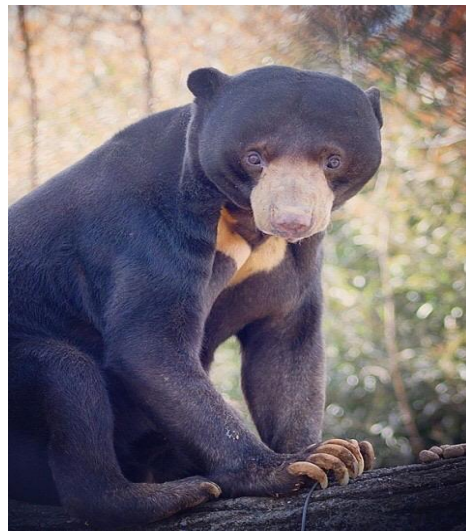
7. Sun bears are primarily nocturnal, which means that they are mostly active during the night time.
  - a. So, when you see our friend Fong, he will most likely be sunbathing or enjoying a midday nap.
    - i. This is very normal sun bear behavior.
      1. Viewing tip: Fong is often napping in his favorite spot right behind the large rocks on the left side of his enclosure.
8. Unlike most other bear species, sun bears do not hibernate.
  - a. Because these bears live in tropical regions, food is plentiful year-round and there is no need for them to hibernate.

## Longevity:

9. The lifespan of sun bears in the wild is still unknown, but they can live into their 30's in zoological settings.

## Threats in the Wild and Conservation:

10. The Malayan sun bear is an at-risk species.
  - a. Their wild populations are threatened by non-sustainable palm oil production and heavy poaching for traditional medicine.
    - i. *For more information on Malayan sun bear poaching for traditional medicine, refer to page 16.*
  - b. How can participants help Malayan sun bears in the wild?
    - i. They can help by supporting companies that you use sustainable palm oil by being aware of what they are purchasing at the grocery store.
      1. Show them the laminated infographics and allow them to scan QR to download an app to help them do that.





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## Bactrian Camel:

### Habitat:

1. Bactrian camels are one of the few animals that is native to the Gobi Desert.
  - a. Harsh climate, scarce resources, and rugged terrain make it very challenging to survive there.

### Physical Characteristics:

2. Bactrian camels have some really intriguing adaptations that allow them to survive in such an unforgiving place.
  - a. Their humps store fat, enabling them to go with little food for extended periods of time.
  - b. They have oval shaped blood cells that allow them to store extra fluid even when they are dehydrated.
  - c. And they can drink up to 15 gallons of water at a time when they are lucky enough to find it.
  - d. They have protective pads on their knees to protect their skin when they kneel on the rugged terrain.
  - e. Lastly, they have closable nostrils and long eyelashes to protect their lungs and eyes from the sand.
    - i. Because other animals have a hard time surviving in the Gobi Desert, Bactrian camels have very few competitors and predators.

### Diet:

3. Bactrian camels eat almost any plant they can find in the wild.
  - a. They are even known to eat fish and meat when they absolutely have to.

### Threats in the Wild and Conservation:

4. Bactrian camels are critically endangered in the wild due to inbreeding with domestic camels and habitat loss.
  - a. Almost all Bactrian camels that are alive today are in captivity.
  - b. There are only about 1,100 individuals left in their natural habitat.
5. Fun fact: Bactrian camels have two humps, unlike their African and Middle Eastern relatives.
  - a. Remember: Bactrian camels have a “B” on their Back.

# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Sichuan Takin:

### Habitat:

1. Sichuan Takin are found in the bitter cold and rugged Himalayan mountains.

### Physical Characteristics:

2. Takins have developed some interesting adaptations that make them particularly good at surviving in such a harsh habitat.
  - a. To keep them warm during the winter, takins grow a very thick secondary coat.
    - i. This coat is then shed in the spring to keep them from overheating in the summer.
  - b. They have a very large nose that has a very large sinus cavity.
    - i. This warms up the air that they inhale before it reaches their lungs.
      1. Without this adaptation, takin would lose a lot of body heat just from breathing.
        - a. So, their large nose keeps them warmer and allows their body to use valuable energy for other things.
  - c. Their skin secretes an oil that works as water proofing when it rains or is foggy.
    - i. You might even see this oil on their wooden fencing where they like to rub up against.
  - d. Takins have split hooves that allow them to move around easier in their naturally rocky habitat.
    - i. Takins have been known to jump 6-foot walls from a standing position, so you can imagine how skilled they are at scaling steep mountain inclines.
  - e. Both sexes have massive crescent shaped horns that grow from the center of their heads.
    - i. These horns can grow up to 35 inches long.

### Diet:

3. Sichuan takins are known to eat over 130 different species of plants.
  - a. In the wild, takins are known to eat just about any vegetation that is in reach.
    - i. This includes tough rhododendron and oak leaves, herbs, new growth leaves, bamboo leaves, and willow and pine bark.
      1. They are particularly good at standing on their hind legs to reach higher leaves.
        - a. And if that doesn't do the trick, they have been known to use their massive body size to their advantage to knock down small trees to get to the leaves.

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- b. Here at the zoo, they eat browse that their keepers harvest daily, hay, and a herbivore grain diet.

## Behavior:

- 4. Takins are herd animals and the size of their herd changes with the seasons.
  - a. Takin spend the warmer months of the year in the mountainous forests where they roam in herds of up to 300 individuals.
    - i. Once it starts to get cold, and the food becomes less plentiful in the forested areas, the takin herd breaks up into smaller groups of 10 to 35 individuals and works their way up the mountains in search of food.
  - b. These herds are made up of adult females (cows), kids (what takin young are called), subadults, and young males.
    - i. Older males (bulls) are solitary and only associate with other takins during mating season and rut in the late summer months.

## Threats in the Wild and Conservation:

- 5. Because of their massive body size and horns, takins do not have many predators to worry about in the wild besides: dholes, leopards, wolves, and bears.
  - a. The main threats to takins are actually due to humans.
    - i. Takin (along with giant pandas) are considered a national treasure in China and have the highest level of legal protection.
      - 1. Even so, human hunters cause the most takin deaths.
        - a. Many local people are unaware of the protections in place for these animals and in some areas, these laws are not being enforced at all.
        - b. Over hunting has caused the disappearance of takins in some areas and they recover at a very slow rate.
    - ii. The main cause of declining population is the loss of their natural habitat.
      - 1. Road construction, bamboo and cane cutting, pasture burning, mining, and farming have decimated large sections of takin natural habitat.
        - a. These activities are dividing herds, disrupting migration routes, and fragmenting what is left of their habitat.
          - i. Domestic livestock also add competition for food, trample vegetation, and transmit disease to takins.
- 6. But there is hope!
  - a. China has given the takin full protection under Chinese law and has also established two reserves just for the protection of Takin.

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- b. San Diego Zoo is doing a lot of work dedicated to endangered species study, management, and recovery with the Conservation Center for Species Survival (C2S2).
    - i. They are working to better understand natural behaviors, preferred habitat, and seasonal movements in order to make takin conservation efforts more effective.
    - ii. San Diego Zoo also has a very successful breeding program and was the first zoo to house Sichuan takin and the first to have a baby born.
      - 1. Many of the takin in North American AZA zoos originated from the San Diego Zoo.
7. Fun Facts:
- a. Takins share the same natural habitat as giant pandas.
  - b. If rumors are true, the takin was used as a model when creating Beast from Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'.



# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Mueller's Grey Gibbon:

### Habitat:

1. Mueller's grey gibbons are found on the Indonesian island of Borneo where they live in tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen rainforests.

### Physical Characteristics:

2. Grey Gibbon coloration varies from grey to brown with a distinct ring of bright fur around the face.
  - a. The top of their head and chest tends to be darker than the rest of the body.
  - b. They are 17-25 inches in length and weigh around 8-17 pounds.
  - c. They have no tail, buttock pads, and long canine teeth.
  - d. Their thumb extends from the wrist, rather than the palm like humans.
    - i. This gives them an extended range of motion.
  - e. They also have very long arms that aid in brachiation through the trees.
  - f. Unlike most other gibbon species, males and females are not sexually dimorphic and have very similar morphology.

### Diet:

- g. Grey gibbons are arboreal rainforest dwellers and spend most of the day foraging in trees.
  - i. In the wild, grey gibbons eat fruit that are high in sugar, insects, and immature leaves.
  - ii. At the zoo, Berta gets primate chow, leaf eater biscuits, fruits, and vegetables.

### Behavior:

3. In the wild, grey gibbons live in monogamous pairs in groups of three or four.
  - a. Males and females are socially equal within these groups.
    - i. Grey gibbons communicate through body posture, facial expressions, gestures, grooming, and singing.
      1. Their family territory is defended with long, loud singing and chasing off intruders, though physical violence is rare.
4. Gibbons mostly travel through the trees using brachiation.
  - a. Brachiation is quickly swinging from branch to branch, extending the arms over the head to hook hands onto branches.
    - i. Gibbons are very clumsy on the ground and have to hold their arms over their heads for balance on the ground.
      1. Bipedal walking is not their preferred method of travel.
      2. They are not good swimmers and avoid open water.

### Reproduction:

5. Reproductive patterns have not been studied in grey gibbons, but are thought to be similar to that of other gibbon species.
  - a. Gibbons reach sexual maturity at around 8-9 years old.

# Asia Valley Interp Binder

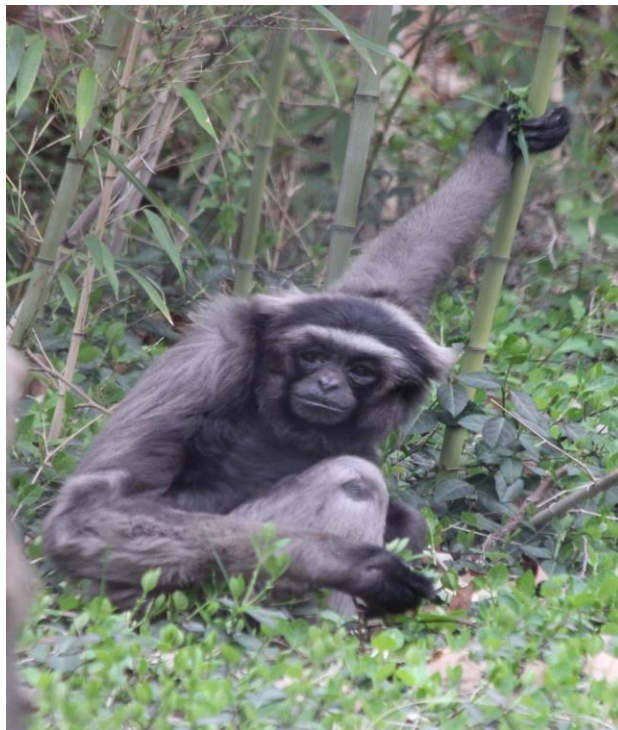
- b. They are mostly monogamous, only changing partners occasionally throughout their lives.
- c. Once pregnant, a female gibbon gestates for 7 months.
  - i. Once she gives birth (usually single birth), the baby clings to her night and day until it begins to travel through the trees (via brachiation) at around 6 months old.
    - 1. The baby is weaned at about 24 months old.
    - 2. There is usually a 2-3-year gap between births.
      - a. Male gibbons are active in grooming and defending their young.

## Longevity:

- 6. Gibbons in the wild live to be around 25 years old.
  - a. On average, they live to be around 44 years old in captivity.
    - i. Berta will be 54 this summer and has surpassed her life expectancy by 10 years at this point.

## Threats in the Wild and Conservation:

- 7. The biggest threat to grey gibbons is humans.
  - a. Their populations are decreasing due to illegal pet trade and deforestation caused by oil palm plantation expansion and logging.
    - i. A way to help conserve this species is to educate about sustainable palm oil and what they can do to make better choices at the grocery store.



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## Conservation Highlights:

### Poaching for Traditional Medicine:

#### 1. Amur tiger:

a. For more than 1,000 years, the use of tiger parts has been included in the traditional Chinese medicine regimen. Because of the tiger's strength and mythical power, the Chinese culture believes that the tiger has medicinal qualities, which helps treat chronic ailments, cure disease and replenish the body's essential energy.

i. There are an estimated 7,000-8,000 tigers held on what are called "tiger farms" throughout East and Southeast Asia.

1. A "tiger farm" is a facility that breeds tigers in order to sell tiger products.

**Tiger claws:** used as a sedative for insomnia

**Teeth:** used to treat fever

**Fat:** used to treat leprosy and rheumatism

**Nose leather:** used to treat superficial wounds such as bites

**Tiger bone:** used as an anti-inflammatory drug to treat rheumatism and arthritis, general weakness, headaches, stiffness or paralysis in lower back and legs and dysentery

**Eyeballs:** used to treat epilepsy and malaria

**Tail:** used to treat skin diseases

**Bile:** used to treat convulsions in children associated with meningitis

**Whiskers:** used to treat toothaches

**Brain:** used to treat laziness and pimples

**Penis:** used in love potions such as tiger soup, as an aphrodisiac

**Dung or feces:** used to treat boils, hemorrhoids and cure alcoholism



# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## 2. Malayan sun bear

- a. Bear bile has been a popular ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine for 3,000 years.
  1. It has been used to cure various ailments, such as fever, gallstones, liver problems, heart disease, and eye irritation
  - ii. Bears on bile farms are subjected to painful procedures and are denied everything that is natural to them.
    1. On most farms, bears are kept in cages that are about 2.5 feet x 4.2 feet x 6.5 feet, which is so small that the bears cannot turn around or sit up completely.
    2. Bile is extracted through a catheter that is implanted into the bear's abdomen.
    3. The catheter being implanted by untrained workers tends to result in roughly half of bears dying from infections or other complications.

## There is Still Hope:

1. Conservation efforts such as CITES and SSP plans:
  - a. CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
  - b. SSP plans
    - i. SSP plans are cooperatively managed by the AZA to oversee population management of select species within AZA institutions and to enhance the conservation of these species in the wild.
    - ii. There are currently almost 500 species that are being protected by SSP programs.
2. How can you help?
  - a. Don't buy traditional Chinese medicine or anything that includes byproducts of endangered or vulnerable animals.

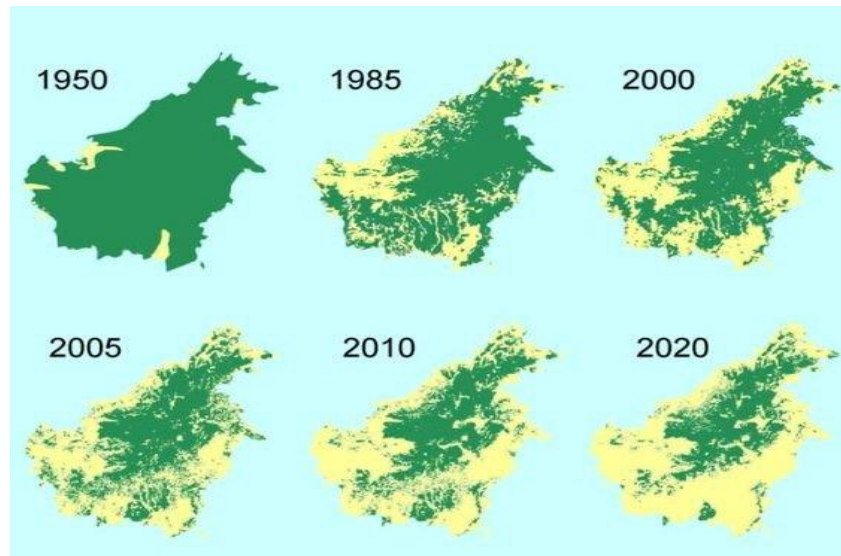


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## Palm Oil Crisis:


1. What is palm oil?
  - a. Palm oil is a form of vegetable oil that comes from the fruit of the African oil palm.
  - b. It is mainly produced in Sumatra and Borneo.
    - i. This happens to be where Malayan sun bears and Mueller's grey gibbons live, among many other species.
  - c. African oil palms are not native to the area and have been introduced for agricultural reasons alone.
  - d. Palm oil is a natural preservative with no trans fats.
    - i. This makes it highly marketable.
2. Palm oil is the most extensively produced edible oil product.
  - a. It is found in our food, bath products, cosmetics, and cleaning supplies.
    - i. You eat it and use it every single day!
  - b. Of all oil crops, oil palms are the most productive.
    - i. They produce about 4-10 times more oil than other oil crops.
      1. When grown SUSTAINABLY, palm oil could be the key to stopping oil motivated deforestation!
3. So, what's the problem?
  - a. The problem is how and where it has been grown historically.
    - i. Companies are cutting down rainforests for their oil palm plantations.
      1. Each year, millions of acres of rainforests are cleared in Sumatra and Borneo to plant more oil palm, rather than using the land that has already been cleared.
        - a. But why are companies choosing to do this?
          - i. Added profits for timber.
          - ii. These companies don't have to adhere to regulations required of sustainable oil palm plantations.

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4. BUT, there are sustainable options!
  - a. There are many companies that have joined the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).
    - i. This means that these companies have met the criteria to achieve certification as a sustainable supplier of palm oil.
      1. What does being 'sustainable' mean?

## 8 PRINCIPLES FOR GROWERS TO BE RSPO CERTIFIED


 **1** Commitment to transparency


 **5** Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity


 **2** Compliance with applicable laws and regulations

 **6** Responsible consideration of employees, and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills

 **3** Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability

 **7** Responsible development of new plantings

 **4** Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers

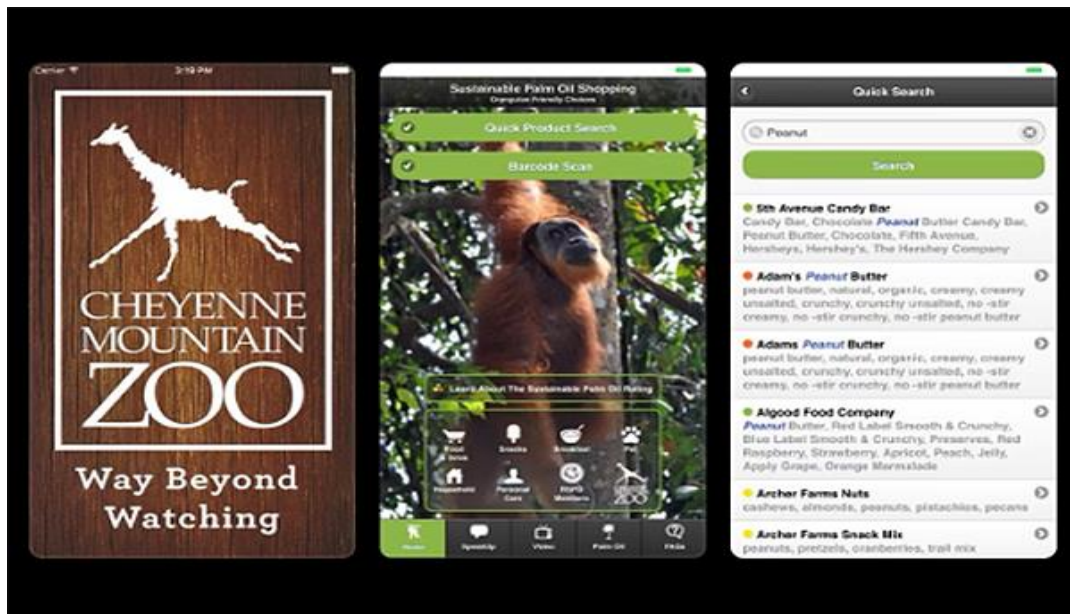
 **8** Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of activity

# Asia Valley Interp Binder

5. What can you do?
  - a. Palm oil is the best oil crop option when it comes to human health and potential eco-friendliness of production.
    - i. It is not realistic or effective to ban it or boycott it all together.
      1. Shop responsibly and support the companies that have committed to preserving the rainforest!
  - b. Look for this label on the products you buy!



- c. Download this app to help you make sustainable decisions on your next shopping trip!



- d. Show them the laminated list of brands that use sustainable palm oil.

# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Facts about Our Individuals:

### Amur Tigers:

| Name   | Gender | Defining Features  |
|--------|--------|--|
| Akasha | Female | Second stripe, left side of face- broken into two pieces.                |
| Nuri   | Female | Second stripe, left side of face- solid stripe with knob or notch in it. |

### Malayan Sun Bear:

| Name | Gender | Defining Features    |
|------|--------|----------------------|
| Fong | Male   | Only him on exhibit. |

### Bactrian Camels:

| Name      | Gender | Defining Features                         |
|-----------|--------|---|
| Franklin  | Male   | Larger, darker brown, humps falling over. |
| Wednesday | Female | Smaller, lighter brown.                   |

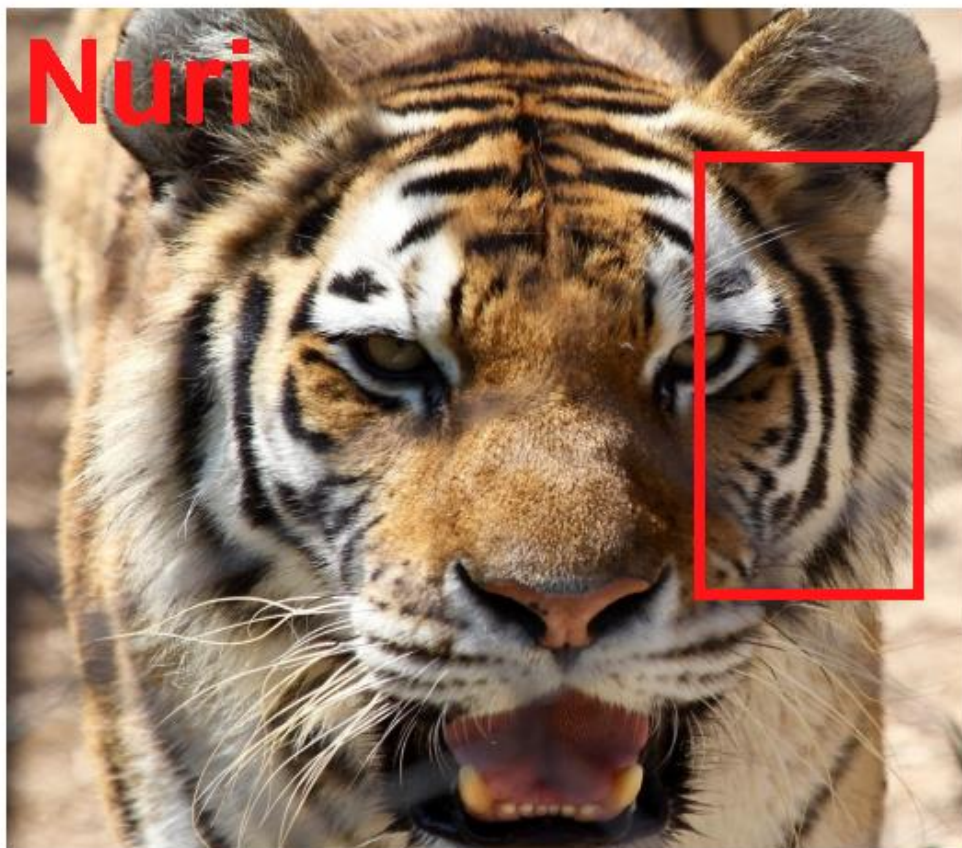
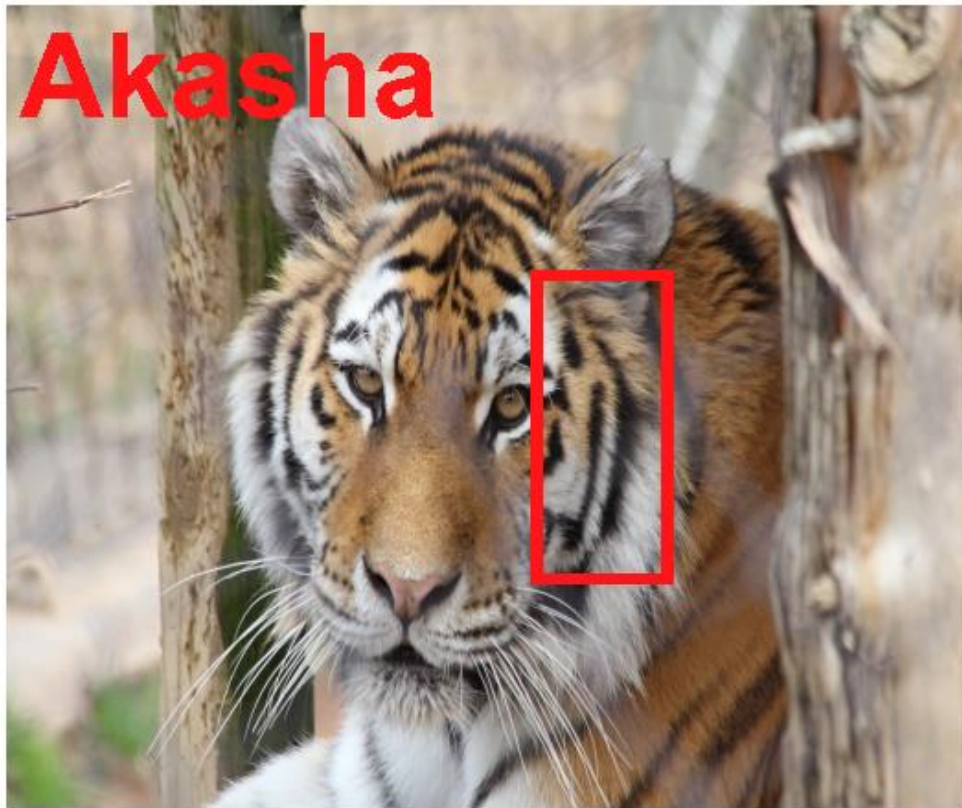
### Takin:

| Name    | Gender | Defining Features         |
|---------|--------|---------------------------|
| Xing-Fu | Male   | Larger, lighter in color. |
| Dawa    | Female | Smaller, darker in color. |
| Xiaodan | Female | Baby                      |

### Gibbon:

| Name  | Gender | Defining Features    |
|-------|--------|----------------------|
| Berta | Female | Only one on exhibit. |

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# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Bactrian Camels:



**Franklin (M)**



**Wednesday (F)**

# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Sichuan Takin:



# Asia Valley Interp Binder

## Resources:

Amur Tiger:

<https://www.oregonzoo.org/discover/animals/amur-tiger>

[https://wwf.panda.org/our\\_work/wildlife/species\\_news/tiger\\_farming/](https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/wildlife/species_news/tiger_farming/)

Malayan Sun Bear:

<https://zooatlanta.org/animal/malayan-sun-bear/>

Bactrian Camel:

<http://mnzoo.org/blog/animals/bactrian-camel/>

Sichuan Takin:

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