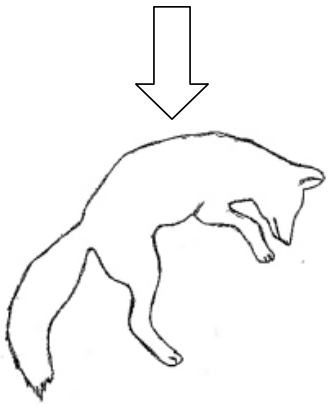
What is a Wolf?

Trace the letters and color in the pictures!

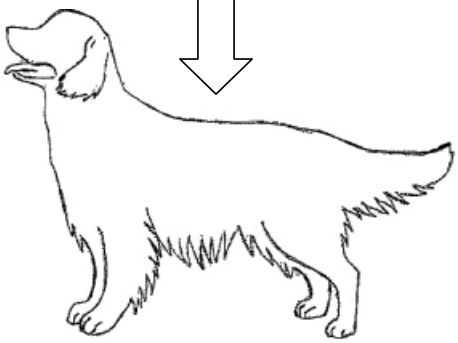
An animal in the dog family is called a canid.

What are some animals in the dog family?

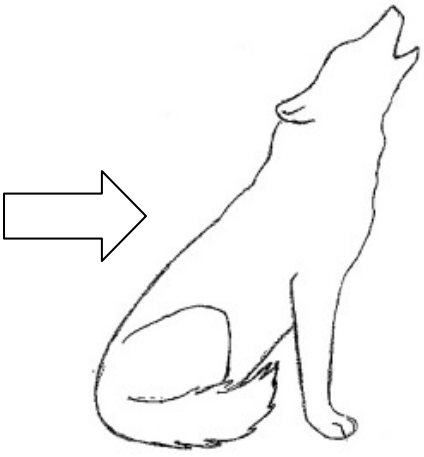
fox



dog



wolf



Living and Non-Living

Living things grow, take in nutrients, and reproduce (which means to create more living things).
Non-living things don't grow, they don't need any food, and they don't reproduce. Look around you. Draw two living and two non-living things that you see. Is a wolf living or non-living?

Living	Non-Living

What Kind of Animal is the Wolf?

A wolf is a **mammal**. A mammal is a kind of animal that has a backbone, warm blood, and fur or hair. Mammals also reproduce, meaning that they have babies, and they produce **milk** to feed their babies. Being **warm-blooded** means that they produce their own body heat, and don't have to rely on the temperature outside to stay warm.

Some mammals, like wolves, have two layers of **fur**. This is called a double coat, and the fluffy undercoat keeps them warm in the winter, and is shed in the summer. However, some mammals barely have any fur! Examples of animals that have very little hair include whales, dolphins, hippos, and rhinos.

Most mammals, like the wolf, also give birth to live young. There are two exceptions – the platypus and the echidna are the only mammals that lay eggs instead of giving birth.

Fill in the blanks:

A mammal has **f___ ___**.

A mammal is **___ ___ ___ ___ - blooded**.

A mammal produces **___ ___ ___ k**.

Most mammals give birth to **l ___ ___ e yo___ ___ g**, but only two mammals, the platypus and echidna, lay eggs.

Is There Really a Big Bad Wolf?

In fairytales and movies, wolves are often shown in a negative way. But in real life, are wolves really aggressive and mean? Actually, it turns out that the “big bad wolf” is a myth! While we should always respect and leave wild animals alone, wolves are actually very shy and they don’t like to be around people. They would rather run away!

Wolves Need Our Help!

Wolves are **endangered**, which means there are not many left in the world. This happened because humans were afraid of wolves and didn't understand how important they were, so for a long time, humans hunted wolves.

Can you list any other endangered animals? _____.

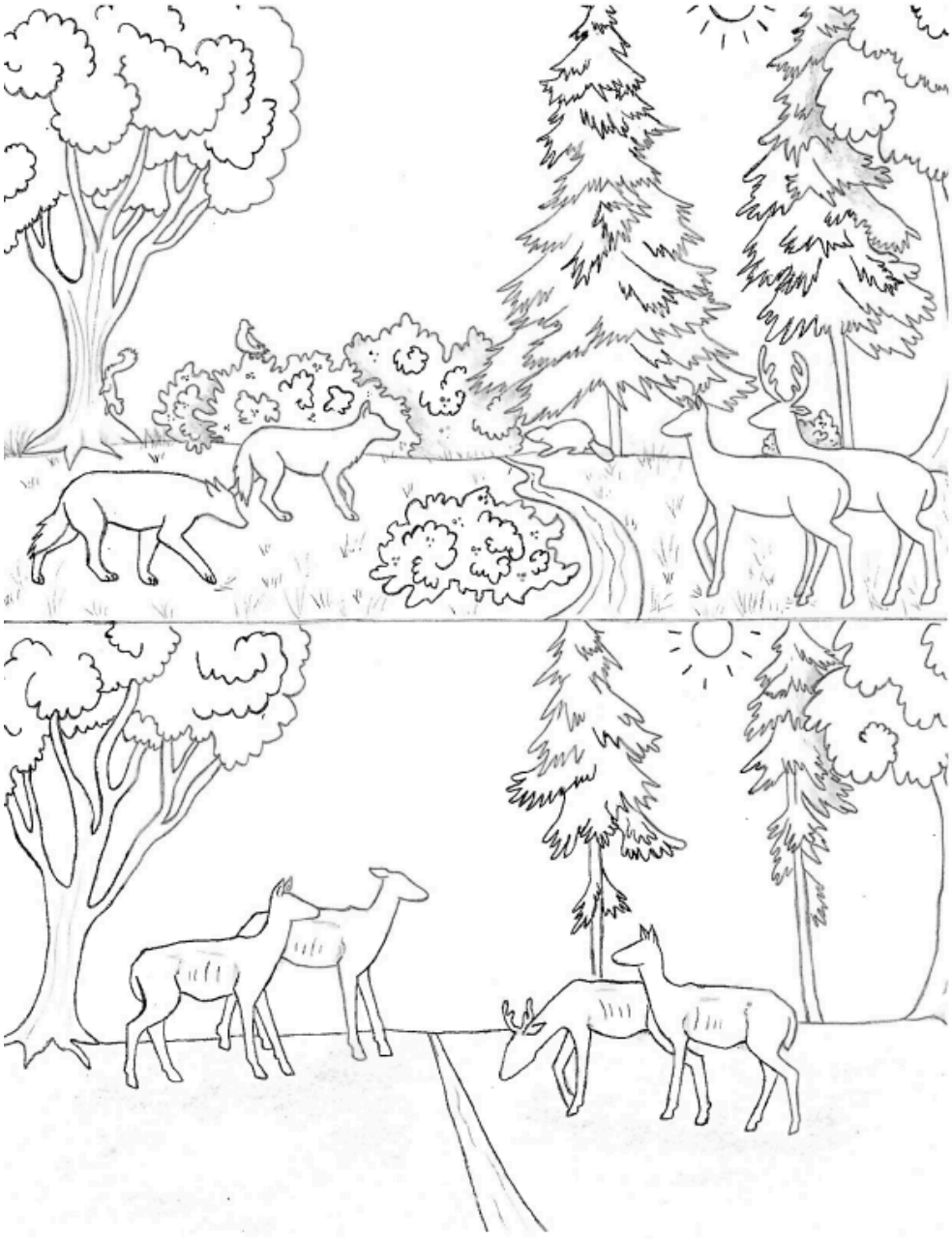
Why are Wolves Important?

Wolves are important because they help balance nature. Wolves eat mostly meat, and they work together as a pack to catch their food. Hunting is hard, and it's much easier for a wolf to catch an animal that is weak or sick. This helps animals, such as sick deer, to avoid spreading diseases to their herd.

Wolves also change the way other animals behave. Animals like deer and elk move from place to place while they eat to avoid the wolves, never taking too much. But when wolves aren't around, the herds don't move as they graze, and end up eating so many plants that there isn't enough food or shelter for other animals.

Action Item: We can help wolves in our everyday lives by advocating for them. This means we can tell our friends, families and classmates about the importance of wolves, and bust the myth about "the big bad wolf."

The top picture is a forest with wolves, and the bottom picture is a forest without wolves. Can you circle the differences between the two pictures?



Carnivore, Omnivore, Herbivore

Carnivores are meat eaters. **Herbivores** are plant eaters. **Omnivores** eat a lot of both meat and plants.

Circle the carnivore:

A. Deer

B. Wolf

C. Rabbit

Circle the herbivore:

A. Bear

B. Deer

C. Seal

Circle the omnivore:

A. Lion

B. Cow

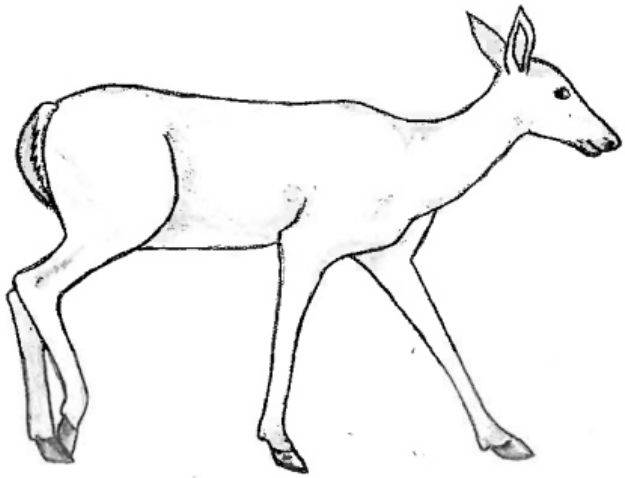
C. Human

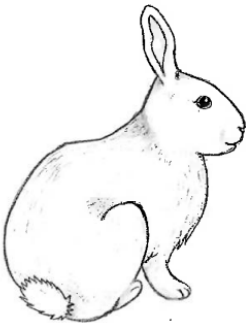
What Do Wolves Eat?

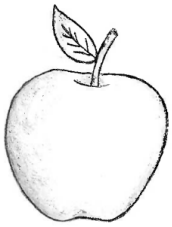
A wolf is a c_____, which means wolves are meat-eaters!

They eat many kinds of animals, but their favorite food is d_____.

Can you circle the foods that a wolf would not eat?







Hop Aboard the Food Chain Train!

All living things need food, and a food chain describes how living things get their food.

The sun is the foundation of the food chain on land.

A **producer** is first in a food chain. Producers don't eat other living things. Instead, they make their own food, using sunlight or chemicals. Plants are a type of producer.

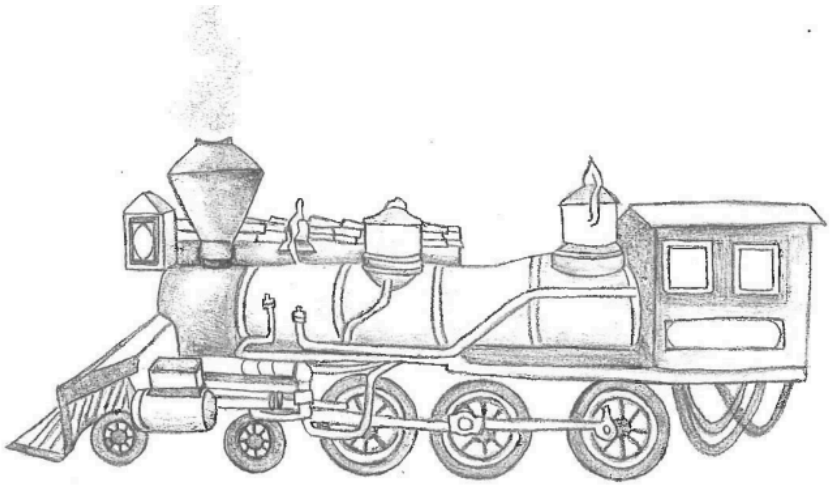
Next come the **consumers**. Consumers are animals that eat living things, such as plants or other animals.

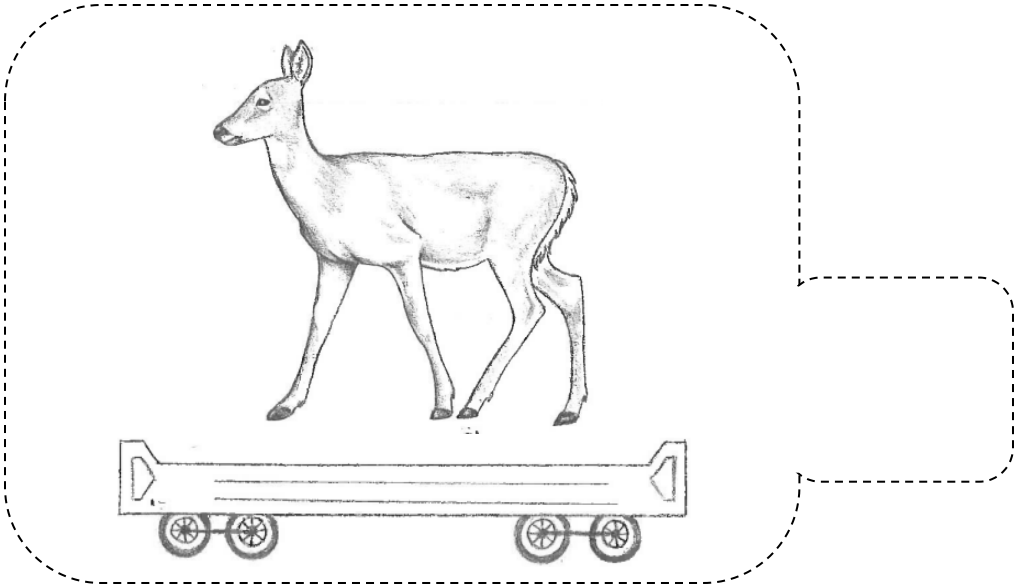
A **primary consumer** is an animal that eats plants. A primary consumer can be an herbivore or an omnivore, depending on the specific food chain.

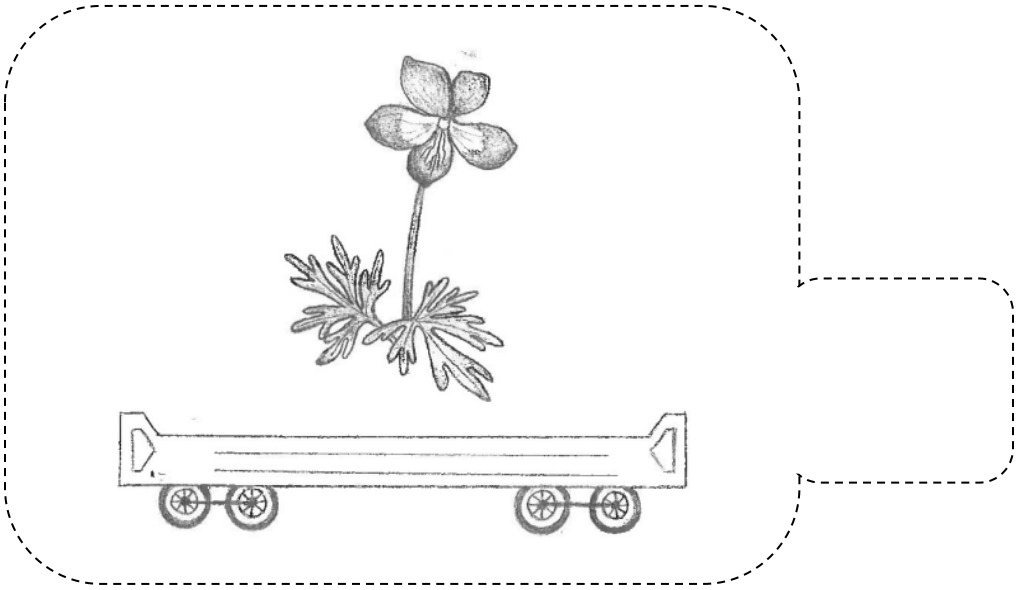
A **secondary consumer** is an animal that eats other animals. A secondary consumer can be an omnivore or a carnivore.

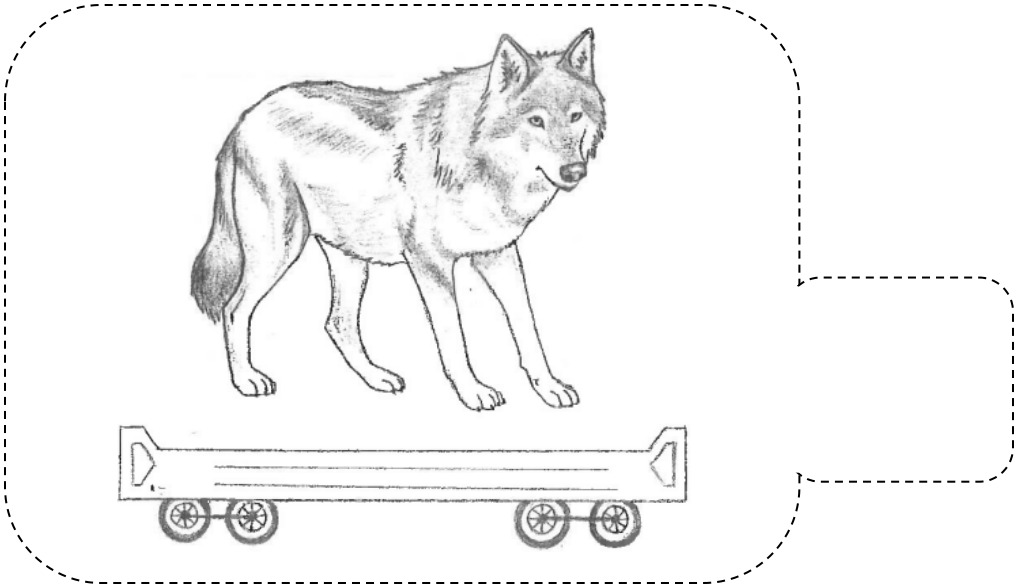
A **decomposer** is the last stop in the food chain. Decomposers break down things that are already dead and return the nutrients back to the soil. Many types of bacteria, fungus, and insects are decomposers.

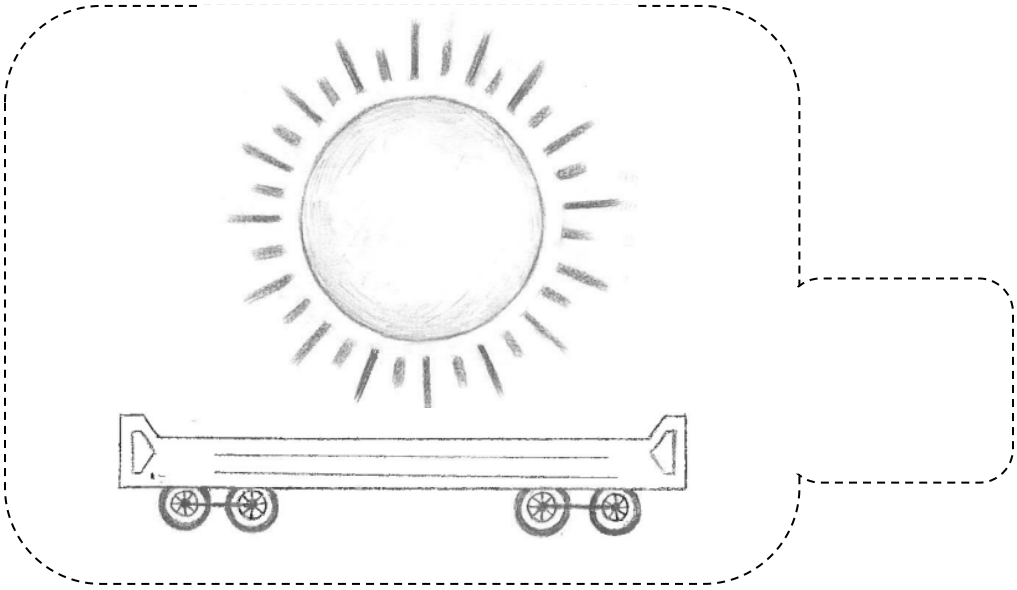
Cut out your shapes along the dotted lines and arrange the train cars in order of a food chain. Then glue the tabs onto the back of the next shape to make a train! Write on each one whether it is a producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer or a decomposer.

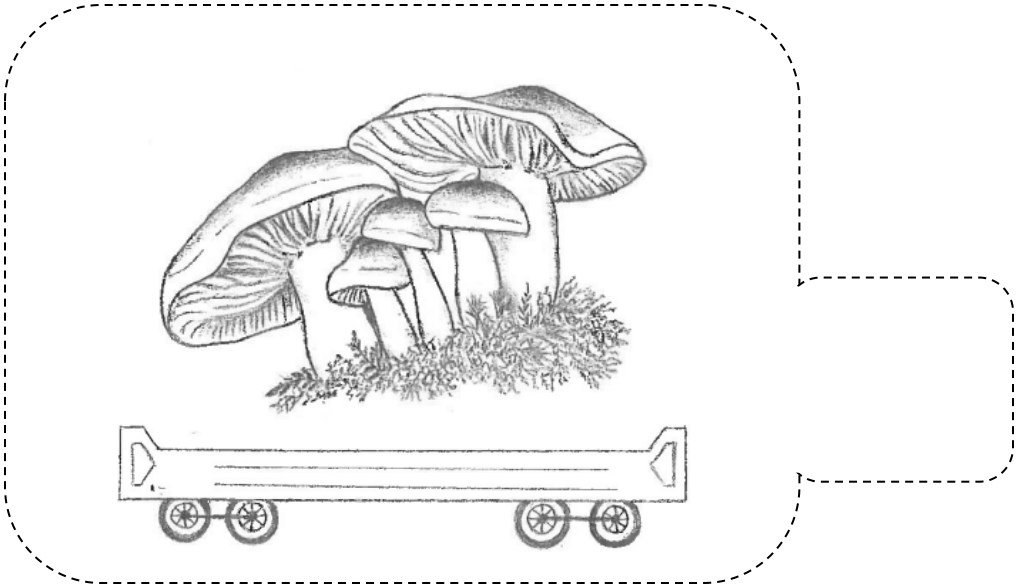








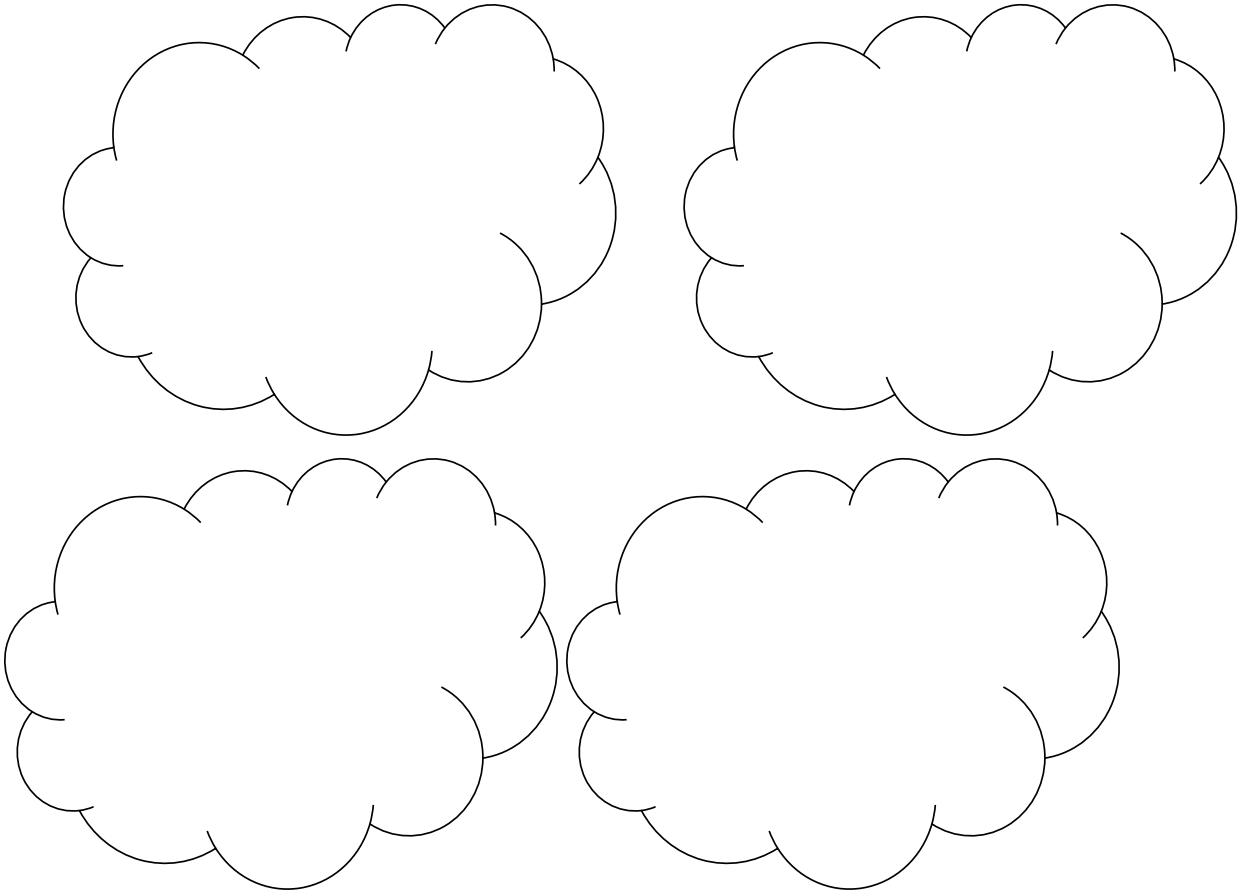




Part of the pack

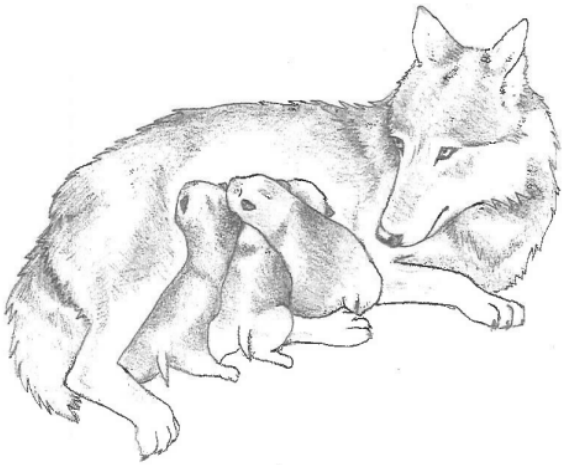
A wolf pack is a family.

Who is in your pack? Can you draw them?



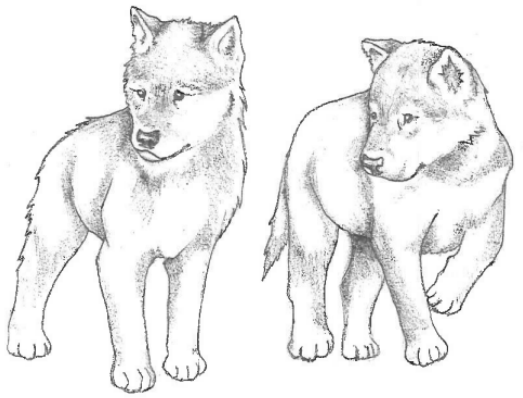
Life Cycle of the Wolf

1. Wolf pups grow in their mom's belly for about two months before they are born. When they are born, they are very small and need to huddle close to their mom and siblings to stay warm. They are also born blind and deaf, and need to drink milk four to five times a day.

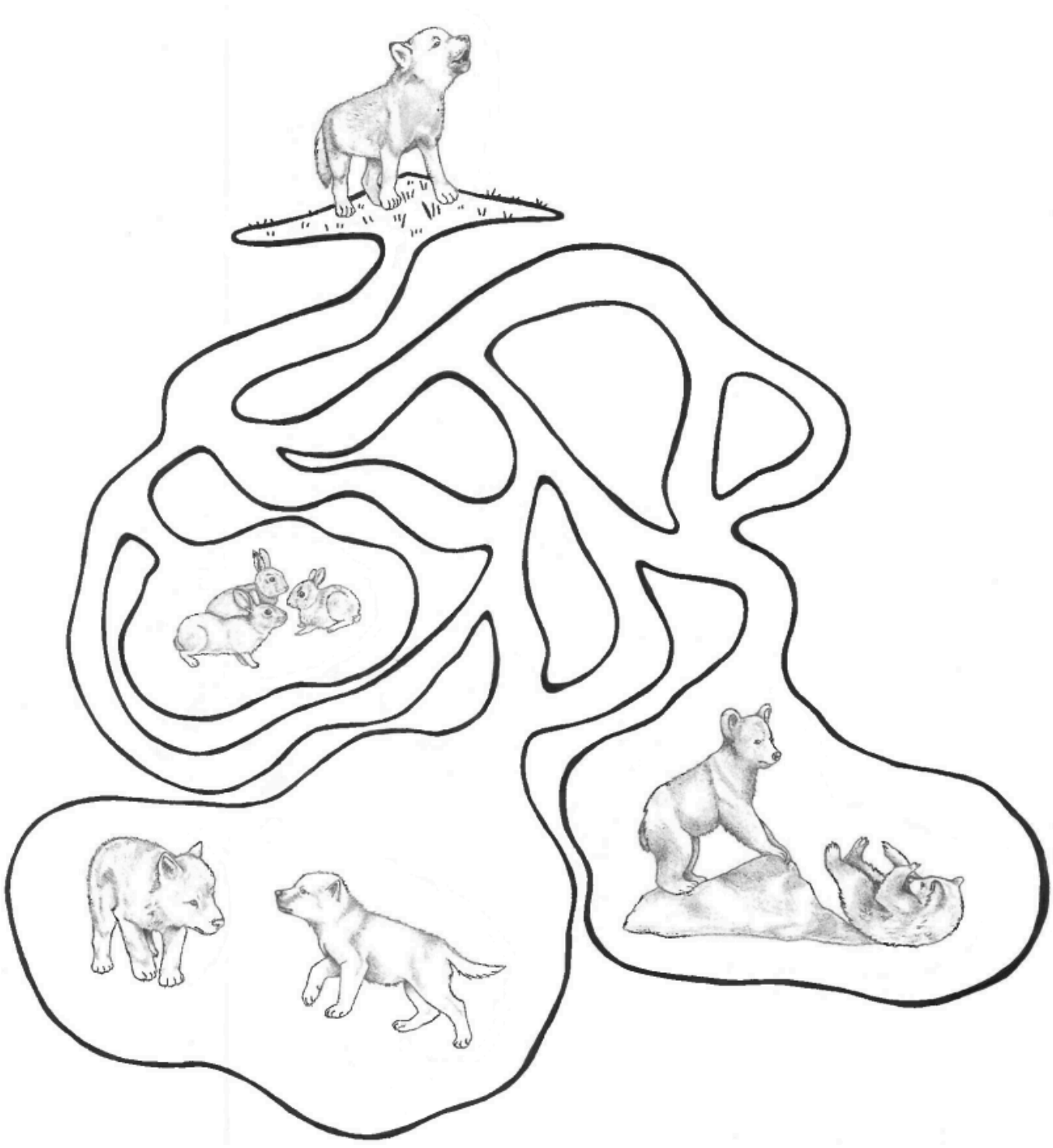


2. Their eyes begin to open at about two weeks old, but they won't be able to see very well for a few weeks yet. When their eyes first open, they are blue, but they will change color to yellow or brown as they age. Their first set of teeth, which are called "**milk teeth,**" also come in at two weeks old. This allows them to start eating small amounts of meat, but they still rely on their mom's milk. This is also the age they are able to stand up for the first time — which means it's time to start exploring!

3. At about a month old, their ears begin to stand up and their hearing improves. Moms begin weaning the pups, meaning that the pups will slowly drink less milk and start eating more meat. They are much more social and active at this age and will begin to play with their siblings and follow their parents around outside of the **den**. A den is a home to protect the puppies and their mom from predators and harsh weather. Their parents may also leave them at the den around this age and go hunting.

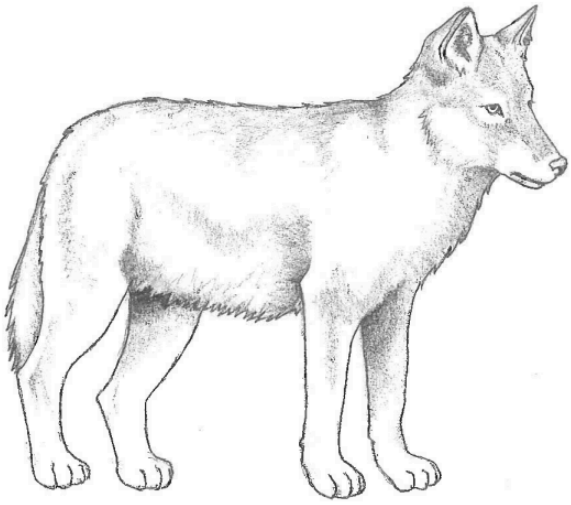


Wolf pups live in a den. Can you help little Hunter find his den?



4. At two months old, the whole pack will leave the den site behind. Pups eat meat that the adults bring back from hunting.

5. When pups are between three-and-a-half months old and six months old, they go through a growth spurt, and their milk teeth get replaced by adult teeth, and eventually begin to follow adults on hunts. They also grow their first winter coat.



6. At six months to a year old, their growth will slow down and yearlings will begin to fully hunt. They will also accompany the pack everywhere they go, leaving the rendezvous site behind. They look almost identical to the adults.

7. When wolves are between 2-3 years old, they become ready to find mates. If they choose to find a mate, they will leave home, find their own territory, and start their own family.

What Do Wolves Need to Survive?

What is a **habitat**? A habitat is the home of a living thing, and there are a few main components that every living thing needs in their habitat to survive. Those things are **food**, **water**, **shelter**, and **space**.

Use a highlighter to color in examples of what a wolf might use to survive. Cross out anything a wolf definitely doesn't need.

Bike	Forest	Milkshake	Laptop	Cellphone	River	Car
Rabbit	Turkey	Beaver	Candle	Hollow log	Moose	Cave
Elk	Snake	Salmon	Cake	Squirrel	Raccoon	Bison
Tree	Songbird	Meadow	Creek	Chipmunk	Stream	Lake
Pond	Mountain	Desert	Fish	Caribou	Puddle	Den
Paint	Hills	Mouse	Field	Boulder	Bush	Book
Ring	Camera	Tundra	Deer	Grassland	Coffee	Chair
Pencil	French Fries	Nail Polish	Grass	Hiking Boots	Flashlight	Socks

How Can You Help?

The plants and animals in nature rely on each other to stay balanced and healthy. Humans can affect nature too. Sometimes we affect nature in a bad way, such as when we hunted so many wolves they almost went extinct. But we can also affect nature in a good way!

One thing you can do is become a wolf advocate. This means you can tell your friends, family and classmates about how important wolves are. You can also write to your local representative. Let's practice!

Dear Representative,

I think wolves are important because

Wolf Habitat

Draw your own wolf habitat with food, water, shelter, and space!

Animals in My Backyard

Let's make a field journal! A field journal is where scientists can draw and take notes on the animals they see in nature. Here are some field notes. You can record them in your journal below.

"A" is for **American Red Wolf**:

They are **carnivores**, which eat mostly meat. Their favorite food is deer. They live in a family called a **pack** and their pack helps them hunt.

"B" is for **black bear**:

They are **omnivores**, so they eat both meat and plants. Bears can also climb trees. During the winter, they go into a deep sleep, which is called **hibernation**.

"C" is for **coyote**:

Coyotes are close cousins to the wolf, but they are much smaller. They mostly eat small animals, dead animals they find, and occasionally snack on fruit. They used to live in the Great Plains but now live all over North America.

"D" is for **deer:**

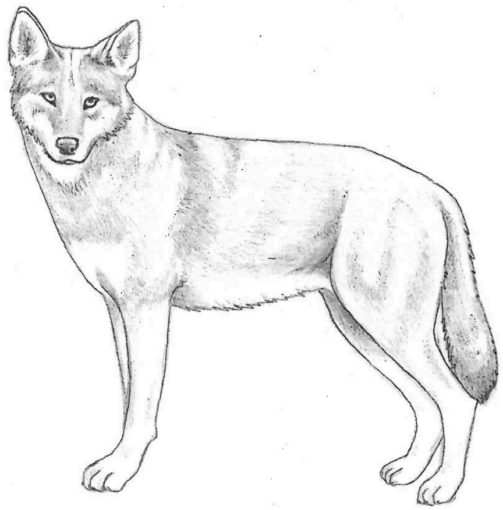
Deer are **herbivores**, or plant eaters. Deer eyes are located on the sides of their head so they can look behind them and see predators coming.

Field Guide Instructions:

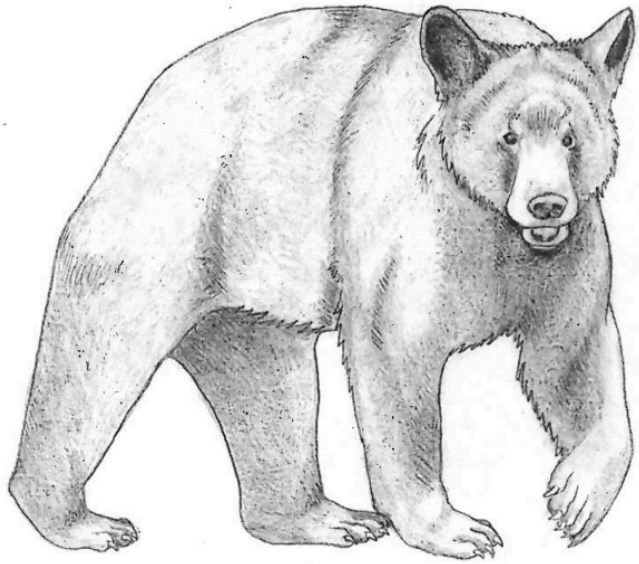
Cut along the dotted lines below, and put your picture pages to the side. Then on the next page, take some field notes on your animals, cut those pages out, and pair them up with the matching picture page. Have an adult staple all your pages together and you have a completed field guide!

Cut along the dotted lines.

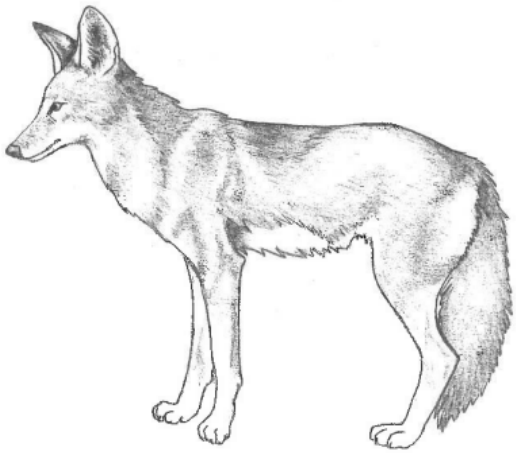
A a American Red Wolf



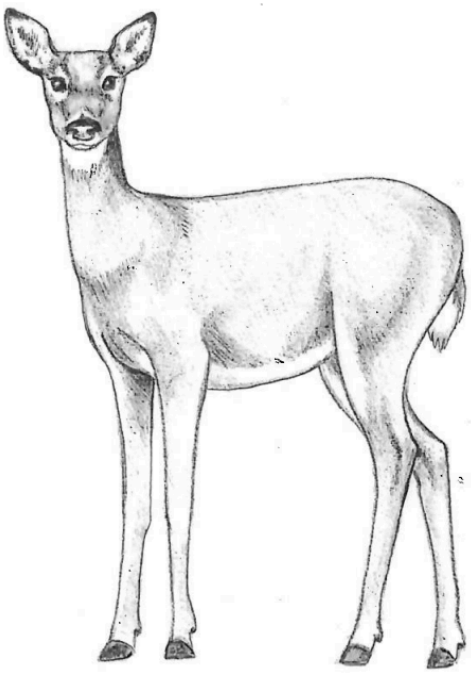
B b Black Bear



C c Coyote



D d Deer



A a **American Red Wolf**

B b **Black Bear**

C c **Coyote**

D d **Deer**

WORD SCRAMBLE

Use the hints to unscramble the vocabulary words below.

An animal in the dog family:

ANDCI

____ ____ ____ ____ ____

An animal that grows fur, is warm blooded, produces milk, and has babies.

LAMAMM

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

An animal that has very few members left:

GENAREDDNE

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

Where a wolf puppy lives:

EDN

____ ____ ____