

Wolves and Dogs

Explore the ways in which wolves and their relatives, domestic dogs, are alike and different.

What's Inside?

Wolf, Dog, or Both? Game

"The Dog and the Wolf" Reading and Discussion

Wolves and Dogs T-Chart

Resources

"The Dog and the Wolf" by Aesop

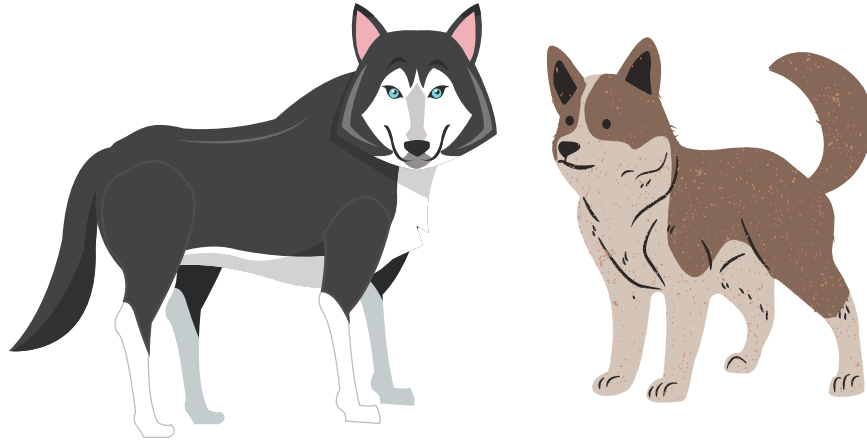


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Source: National Geographic "Gray Wolf Educator Guide"

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/gray-wolf-educator-guide>.

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T-Chart: Wolves and Dogs

Make a simple t-chart of "wolves" and "dogs" on the board or easel pad. Have students record the differences and similarities in size, physical traits, food, and behaviors on the chart. If students still have questions after this, have them research answers and add them to the chart.

"The Dog and the Wolf"

Read and discuss the Aesop's fable, "The Dog and the Wolf" (see attached). Ask what other "pros and cons" are associated with being a dog versus being a wolf."

Class Game: Wolf, Dog, or Both?

Play a group game to highlight the ways in which wolves and domestic dogs are alike and different.

- First, create a set of cards about both gray wolves and domestic dogs (see Resources for places to find these facts).
- Next, divide the class into teams, and play a game in which a representative from each team competes to call out the category of a fact you read aloud as a characteristic of wolves, domestic dogs, or both.

RESOURCES

BOOKS

- Dutcher, Jim, and Jamie Dutcher, *The Hidden Life of Wolves*, Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2013.
- Dutcher, Jim, and Jamie Dutcher, *Living with Wolves*, Seattle: Mountaineers Books, 2005.
- Dutcher, Jim, and Jamie Dutcher, *Wolves at Our Door: The Extraordinary Story of the Couple Who Lived with Wolves*, New York: Pocket Books, 2002.
- Gibbons, Gail, *Wolves*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 1995.
- Jazynka, Kitson, *National Geographic Kids Mission: Wolf Rescue: All About Wolves and How to Save Them*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Children's Books, 2014.
- Lansky, Bruce and Timothy Tocher, Free Story "Little Bad Wolf and Red Riding Hood" from *Newfangled Fairy Tales*. Minnetonka, MN: Meadowbrook Press, 2012.
- Marsh, Laura, *National Geographic Readers: Wolves*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Children's, 2012.
- Slade, Suzanne, *What If There Were No Gray Wolves?: A Book About the Temperate Forest Ecosystem*. North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2010.
- Trivizas, Eugene and Helen Oxenbury, *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*. New York, NY: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1997.

WEBSITES

- Animal Tracks Identification (including the gray wolf): <http://www.almanac.com/content/animal-tracks-identification-critter-pictures>
- Discovery: Ecology—Animal Camouflage Pictures: <http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/curiosity/topics/animal-camouflage-pictures.htm>
- Endangered Species Coalition: Back from the Brink: <http://www.endangered.org/campaigns/annual-top-ten-report/>
- Endangered Species Coalition Citizen's Guide to the ESA: www.stopextinction.org/
- Fables and Fairy Tales: http://www.kidsgen.com/fables_and_fairytales/
- Native American Wolf Mythology: <http://www.native-languages.org/legends-wolf.htm>
- National Geographic Education: Collection—Graphic organizers: <http://www.NatGeoEd.org/graphic-organizers>
- National Geographic Education: Mapmaker Interactive (from the Themes menu, select the *Gray Wolf* Range data layer): <http://www.NatGeoEd.org/mapmaker-interactive>
- National Geographic News: "We Didn't Domesticate Dogs. They Domesticated Us." <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/03/130302-dog-domestic-evolution-science-wolf-wolves-human/>
- United States Senate (lists of state senators for letter writing campaigns): http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Endangered Species (sortable by state): <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Endangered Species Act: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/laws-policies/>
- WolfCountry.net: The Strength of the Wolf: http://www.wolfcountry.net/information/myth_stories/wolfstrength.html
- WolfCountry.org: Myths, Legends, and Stories: <http://www.wolfcountry.net/stories/>



You can download the full Gray Wolf Educator's Guide at
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/gray-wolf-educator-guide>.

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THE DOG AND THE WOLF

BY AESOP



A gaunt Wolf was almost dead with hunger when he happened to meet a House-dog who was passing by. "Ah, Cousin," said the Dog. "I knew how it would be; your irregular life will soon be the ruin of you. Why do you not work steadily as I do, and get your food regularly given to you?"

"I would have no objection," said the Wolf, "if I could only get a place."

"I will easily arrange that for you," said the Dog; "come with me to my master and you shall share my work." So the Wolf and the Dog went towards the town together. On the way there the Wolf noticed that the hair on a certain part of the Dog's neck was very much worn away, so he asked him how that had come about.

"Oh, it is nothing," said the Dog. "That is only the place where the collar is put on at night to keep me chained up; it chafes a bit, but one soon gets used to it." "Is that all?" said the Wolf. "Then good-bye to you, Master Dog."

There is nothing worth so much as liberty.