

Grade 3 – Where are the Wolves?

Wolves no longer live in New York State. They also don't live in many other places around the United States. Why? Over a hundred years ago, people wanted to get rid of the wolf. They thought the wolf was a pest. They feared it. So wolves were driven away or killed. Some hunters were even paid to kill wolves. To this day, wolves haven't returned to many places around the country.



The image of the "scary wolf" is still around today. Click on one or two of the links below to listen to a story that has a wolf in it. (If you have any of the books at home, read it with an adult.)

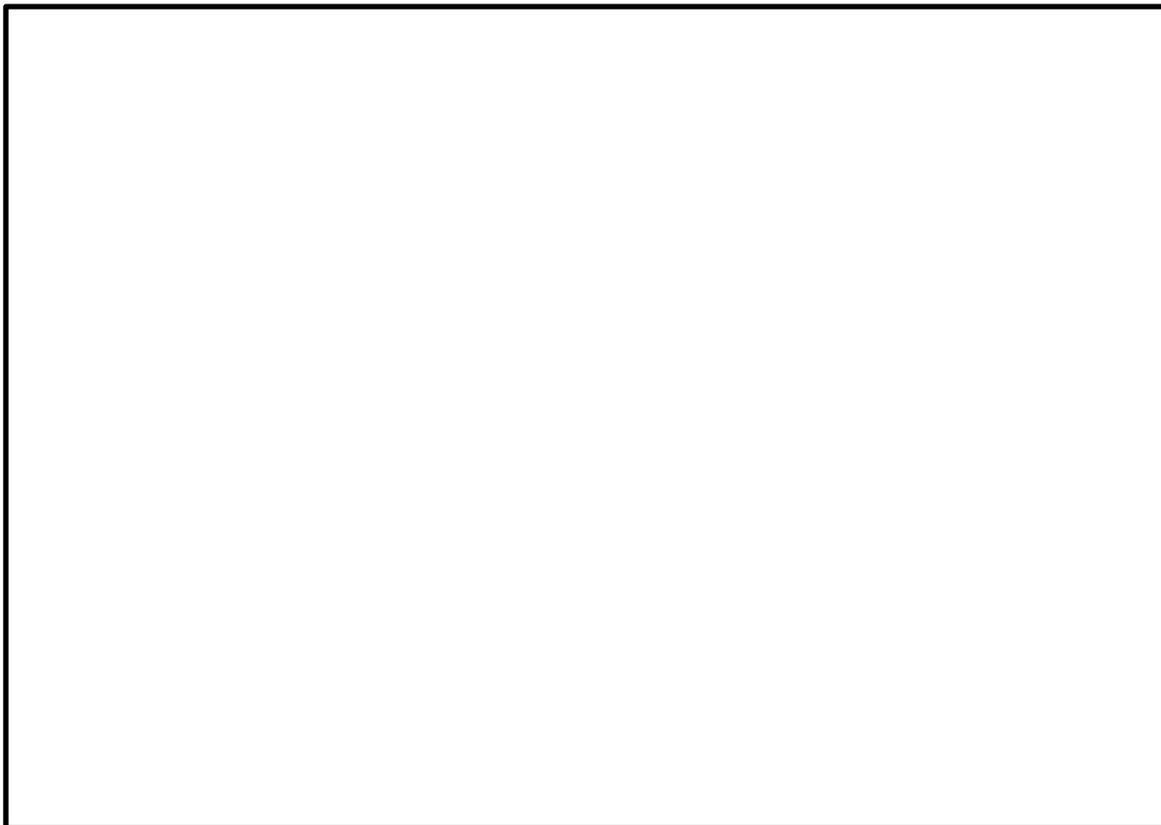
Little Red Riding Hood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egzPMjJh20>

Three Little Pigs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c65157C56-M>

Peter and the Wolf: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLxasaVqsmU>

In the box below, draw a picture of the wolf in the story. Write some words under the picture that you think describes the wolf in the story.

Wolf in the Story

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw a picture of a wolf and write descriptive words.

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Visit the website on The Sawtooth Pack of wolves:

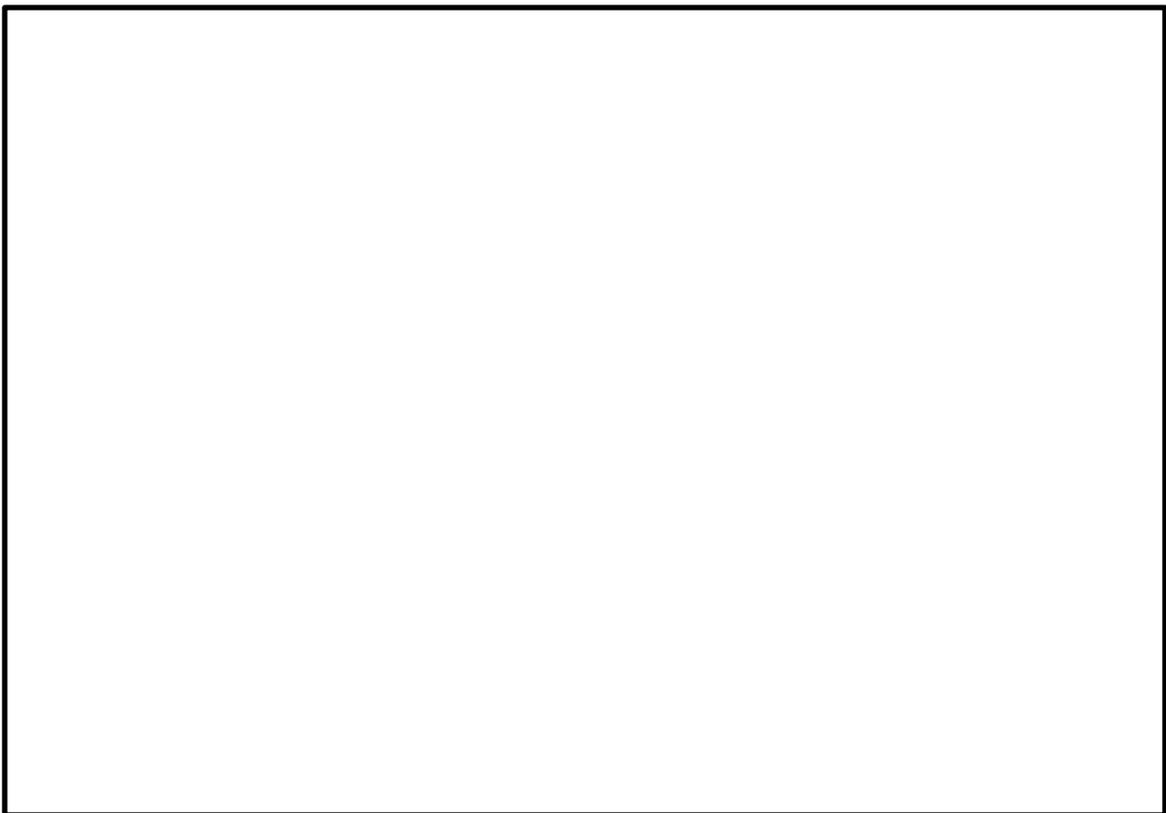
<https://www.livingwithwolves.org/sawtooth-pack/meet-the-pack/#pack>

Click on the link on the website that says “Meet the Members of the Sawtooth Pack”.

Read about some of the wolves in this pack. In the box below, draw a picture of one of the Sawtooth wolves. Write some words under the picture that describe the wolves in the pack.



Wolf in Sawtooth Pack



Show both of the pictures you drew to an adult. Discuss with the adult how the two pictures compare. Ask them to tell you the differences they see in the pictures. Describe to them why you drew the wolves the way you did. How do you think the image in the book connects with what people thought of wolves long ago? Do people have a different image of wolves today?

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In the month of March, Yellowstone National Park is celebrating 25 years since the reintroduction of the wolf to its ecosystem.

Watch the video of a webcam at Yellowstone National Park: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3NjK6nrKb8>



Describe what you see in the video in words, pictures, or both.

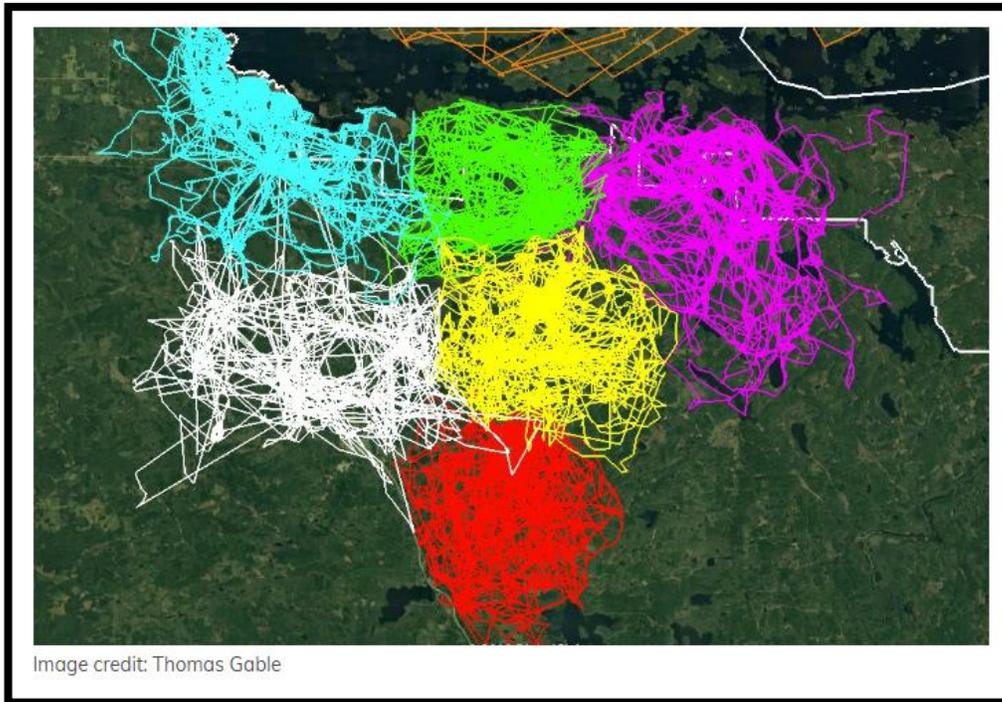
Think about these questions:

- What did you observe the wolves doing?
- Did you see one wolf or more than one wolf?
- What did you observe about where the wolves live?



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Wolves move in packs. The Wolf Pack Movement video on the BOCES 4 Science website (or the picture below) shows the wolf packs in Voyageurs National Park. It is a park in northern Minnesota. The wolves had GPS collars on them. The data from the GPS allow us to see where the wolves travel in the park.



What do you notice about where and how the wolves travel?

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If you said that wolves move within their **territory**, you are correct! The middle of their territory is often the center of their pack. Most of their time is spent there. It is a place where they feel safe. Their dens are often in the center of their territory. Mothers give birth in this area, too.

territory – an area of land that belongs to one group

Different packs avoid being around each other. Wolves give warning signals to other packs. Packs may be found together to fight for food. Wolf packs may also fight each other for territory.



Look at the travel patterns of each pack again. Is there one wolf pack that seems more **aggressive** than the others? _____

aggressive – ready to attack or challenge

- Make a list of reasons why you chose that wolf pack as the one that is more aggressive? What do you observe?

- Make a list of reasons why you think that group may need to be more aggressive?
