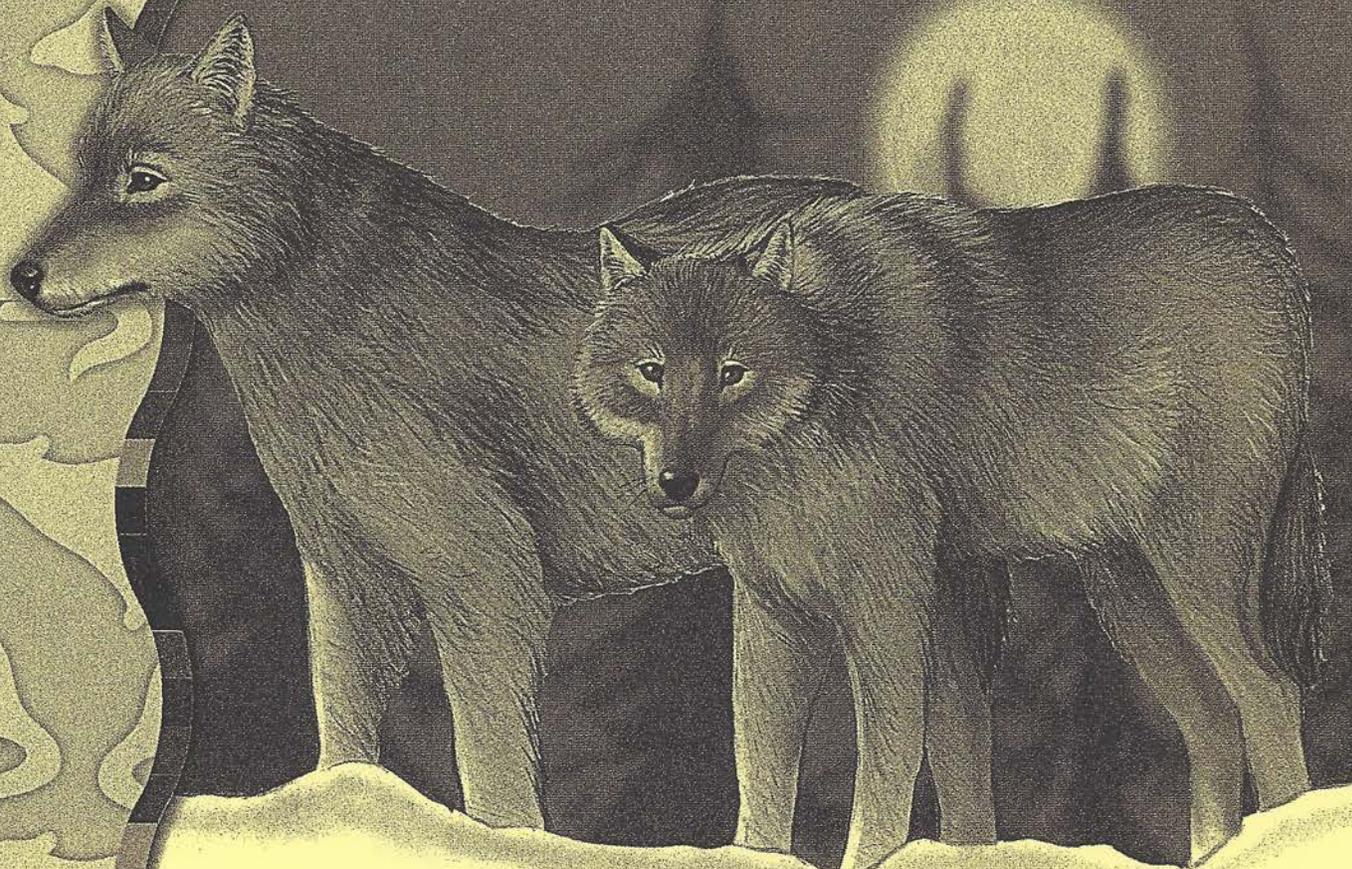


WOLVES

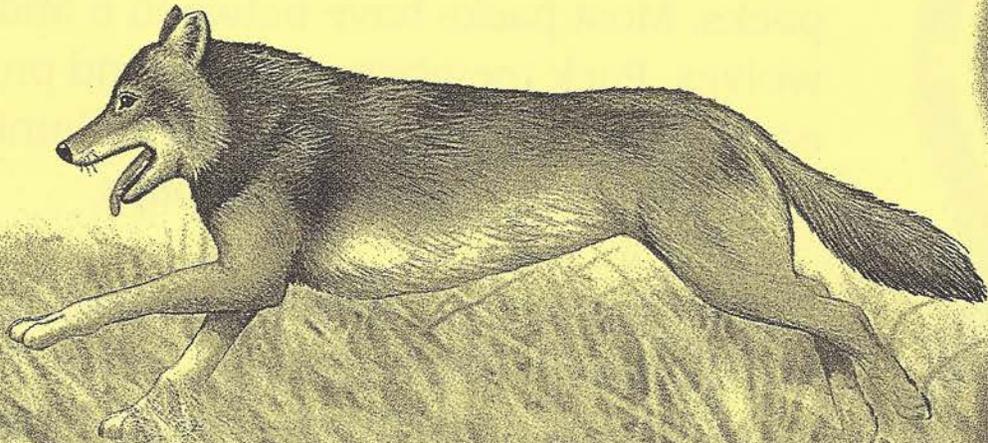
Pull-Out Storybook



What do you think of when you hear the word *wolf*? A sly animal that tricks girls in red hoods? Wolves have had a bad reputation. But wolves are actually shy animals that avoid people. With each other, they are caring, protective and loyal.

There are two main species, or kinds, of wolves—the gray wolf and the red wolf. Male wolves are larger than females. The wolves below are timber wolves—a type of gray wolf.



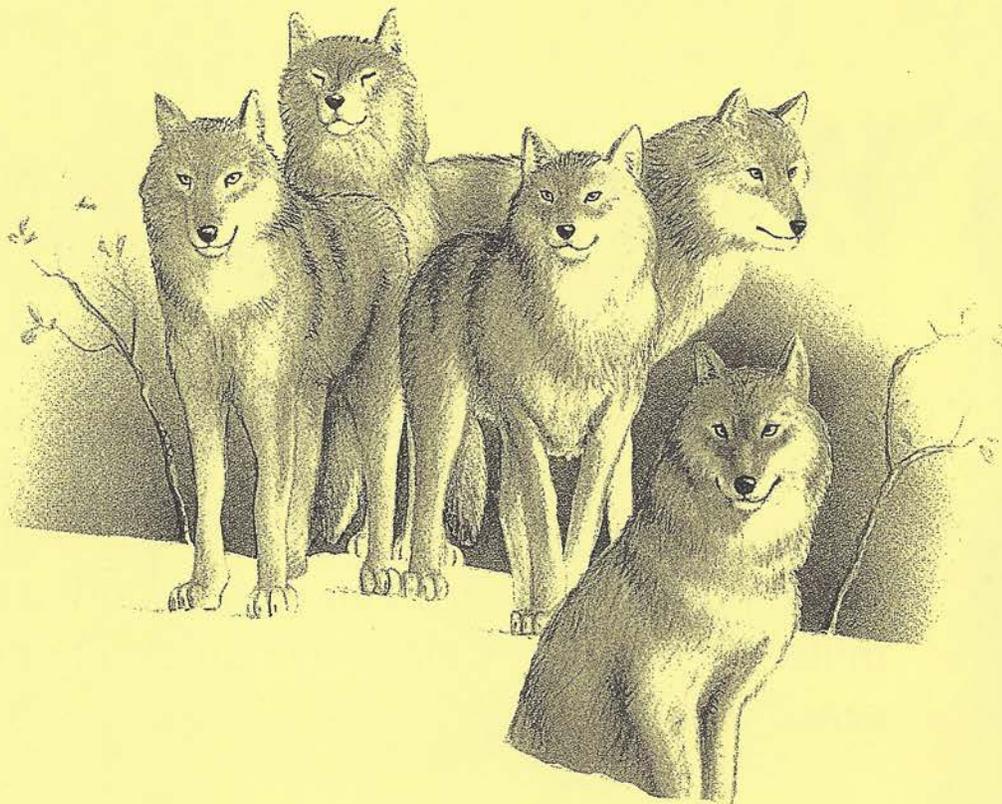


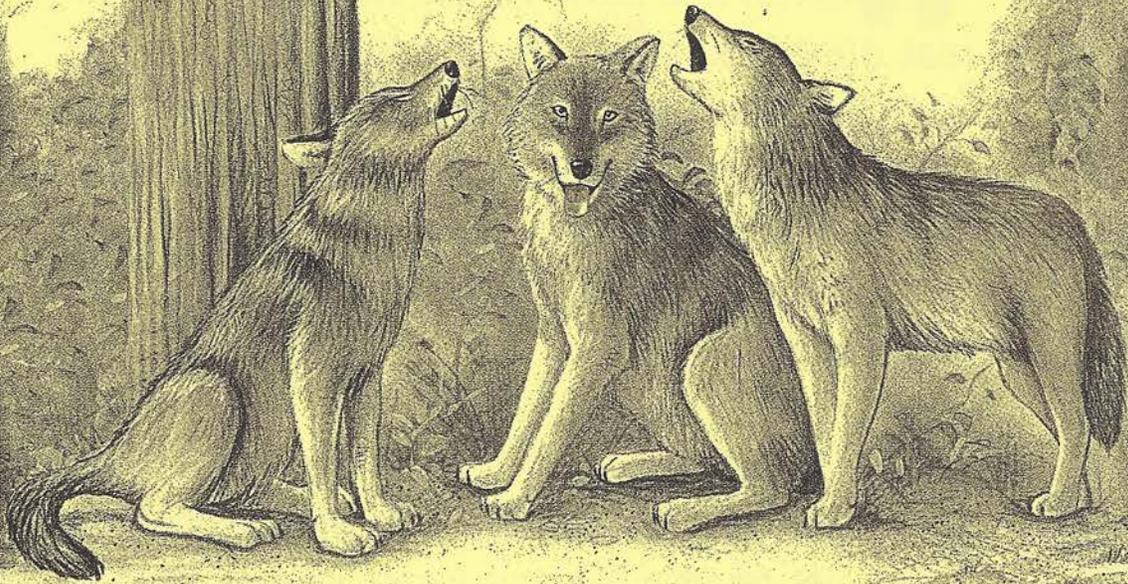
Wolves look like large dogs. In fact, they are members of the dog family. Wolves have longer legs and bigger paws than dogs. Their fur is also thicker and bushier. This helps keep them warm in freezing temperatures.

Wolves have excellent eyesight and a keen sense of hearing. They can hear sounds 10 miles away. Wolves also have an excellent sense of smell.

Gray wolves live in family groups called packs. Most packs have between 6 and 20 wolves. Pack members care for and protect each other. They work together to hunt food. They also help raise the wolf pups.

Wolves are curious, intelligent animals. They sometimes remind us of dogs. But as friendly as wolves may look, they are wild animals and do not make good pets.





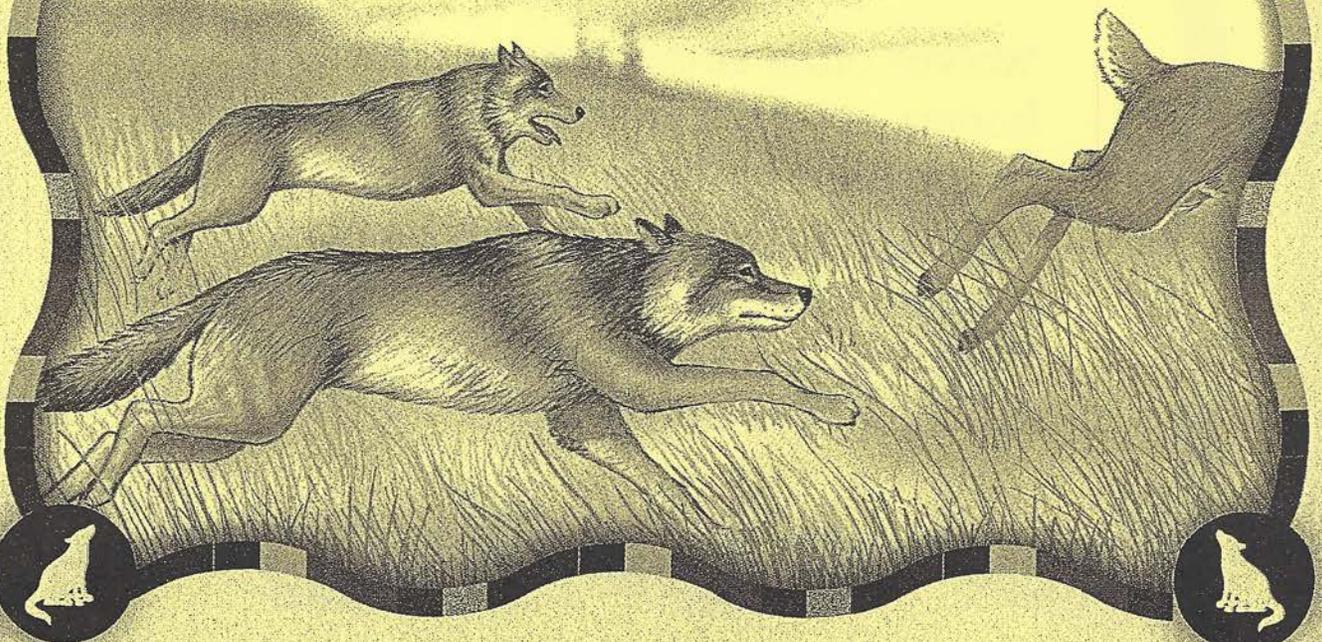
Wolves communicate in many ways. A wolf pack howls to tell other wolves to stay away. They may howl to signal the start of a hunt. Wolves also howl to call each other back to the pack.

Wolves often communicate with their bodies. A happy wolf has its ears forward, its tongue hanging out of its mouth and its tail wagging. An angry wolf has its ears forward, its teeth bared and its tail up. A frightened wolf has its ears back, its mouth closed and its tail down.



Wolves are carnivores, meaning they eat other animals. Wolves use their excellent sense of smell to help them find deer, beavers, rabbits and other prey. When the wolves spot their prey, they chase it until the prey tires. Then, the wolves surround it.

Wolves can run at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour. But many times the pack does not catch its prey. Some animals can outrun the wolves.





Wolves are caring parents. The mother wolf finds or digs a den before her pups are born. Wolf pups are born blind and helpless. The mother cares for the pups inside the den for a few weeks. She feeds them milk from her body. In the meantime, the father wolf brings food for the mother.

Wolves belong to a group of animals that also include foxes, coyotes, jackals, wild dogs and pet dogs. The **maned wolf** of South America is called the "fox on stilts." Can you see why? The **husky dog** looks like the wolf but is smaller. **African wild dogs** live in packs. They hunt large animals like zebras. The **gray fox** will climb a tree to escape from danger or search for prey. Thousands of years ago, the **dingo** was brought to Australia as a tame dog. Since then, it has become wild. **Coyotes** usually live alone or in pairs. Although the wolf's range has decreased, the areas where coyotes live have increased. The **raccoon dog** has a face like a raccoon. This small foxlike animal lives in eastern Asia.

Dingo

Coyote

Raccoon Dog

Maned Wolf

Husky

African Wild Dog

Gray Fox

Gray Wolf

The gray wolf is the largest member of the wild dog family. This animal can reach a length of 4 feet and can weigh 100 pounds. Gray wolves live in northern forests. They hunt for deer, elk and moose in packs of 3 to 24. Wolves, like other members of the dog family, can go for several days without food.

The leader for the wolf pack is the strongest male. Other wolves show respect by lowering their ears and putting their tails between their legs. Wolves mate for life. A female gives birth to a litter of 3 to 13 young, called pups. The pups are helpless at first. Other members of the pack help the parents care for the cubs.



Think and Learn

1. The gray wolf is a member of the _____ family.
2. Where do gray wolves live? _____
3. Gray wolves hunt in _____.
4. How do wolves show respect to the leader? _____



Word Search

Find the names of North American animals in the puzzle. They are written **across** and **down**.



caribou
fox
wolf
bat

beaver
skunk
deer
weasel

eagle
bear
rabbit
antelope

armadillo
pronghorn
porcupine