

Wolves of the North Woods



Audubon Center
of the North Woods

Purpose: Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? Did anyone ever ask the wolf? In this class, students will hear the other side of the story, from an ecological perspective. Through a variety of games, students learn about basic wolf biology, pack structure, and hunting techniques.

Concepts:

- Wolves are predatory animals
- Wolves are not harmful to humans
- Folklore and myths have depicted wolves as "big & bad," which is unrealistic to their actual biology.

Learning Outcomes: *Students will be able to*

- Distinguish myth from facts about wolves
- Identify special adaptations wolves have and how those help them survive.
- Discuss wolf pack structure, why wolves hunt in packs and the role each wolf plays.
- Demonstrate and interpret wolf behavior in a pack

Minnesota Academic Standards:

Science:

- 5.1.3.4.1: Use appropriate tools and techniques in gathering, analyzing and interpreting data.
- 6.1.3.4.1: Determine and use appropriate safe procedures, tools, measurements, graphs and mathematical analyses to describe and investigate natural and designed systems in a physical science context.
- 7.4.2.1.1: Identify a variety of populations and communities in an ecosystem and describe the relationships among the populations and communities in a stable ecosystem.

REVISOR: CLARISSA ELLIS, 2011

CLASS LENGTH: 1.5 & 3 HR

AGES: K-12

SEASON: F, W, SP, S

GROUP SIZE: 15-16

SAFETY: (describe any safety concerns, as well as a brief description of their physical challenges)

MATERIALS: Wolf Education Box (should include the following items): Wolf, coyote, and gray fox skin, Wolf, coyote, fox, and deer skulls, Deer and moose legs, Wolf trap, Radio collar, Slides and/or disc with power point presentation, Wolf and human brain pictures, Scents and Q-tips (on shelf by wildlife coordinator's desk) or scents in film canisters, Laptop and digital projector or slide projector, T.V. and VCR.

PRE-CLASS PREP: Set up science classroom before class with laptop and projector. Also, charge the battery for radio telemetry. Prepare scent canisters.

CLASS OUTLINE:

- I. Ten Minutes to Teaching
- II. Introduction (20 min)
Name that fur
- III. Indoor Slideshow
- IV. Activities
 - A. Activity 1- Wolf Communication
 - B. Activity 2- Look at wolf, coyote, fox pelts and skulls
 - C. Activity 3- Let's make a pack!
 1. Grade: (outside or inside)
 - D. Sense of Smell
 1. Activity 4- Scent Game (30-45 min)
- V. Radio Telemetry (60 min)
 - A. Detective Device
 - B. Rock Wild 107.1 The Wolf
 - C. Indoor Demo
- VI. Activity 6: Wolf Howl (20 min)
- VII. Clean-up (10 min)
- VIII. The Sending (10 min)