

## Wolves

### ABOUT THE STORY

People have always been fascinated—and scared—by wolves. This book answers questions about how wolves communicate, work and play together, and raise their young. It focuses on what and how they eat. It describes why wolves are endangered, and explains how people are helping to save them.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Gail Gibbons has written over eighty books for children on topics that range from animals to knights to farming. She is the winner of the *Washington Post* Children's Book Guild Award for her overall contribution to children's nonfiction. She lives in Vermont and Maine.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they think wolves are scary or beautiful – or both. Encourage them to explain their answers. Tell them that this book will give them information about what wolves are really like, and whether people should be afraid of them.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- "What are the two kinds of wolves?"
- "To what animals are wolves related?"
- "What is an alpha wolf?"
- "How do wolves 'talk' to each other?"
- "How are wolves similar to humans?" (*Compare and contrast*)
- "Why do you think people were afraid of wolves?" (*Draw conclusions.*)
- "Do you think the wolf species should be saved? Why or why not?" (*Express opinions.*)

### Vocabulary

Write these vocabulary words and definitions on the chalkboard. Ask volunteers to draw lines matching each word to its definition.

ancestors	animal victim
territory	give information
boundaries	forefathers
prey	destruction
communicate	land or region
extinction	capable
efficient	border or limit

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Social Studies: Wolf Neighbors**

Help children find out whether wolves live in their area now, and whether they lived there in the past. If wolves used to live nearby, have children find out what happened to the wolves. If they have never lived nearby, children can determine the closest place where wolves once did live.

#### **Math: Wolf Numbers**

Help children find out how many wolves there were in the United States at some point in the past. Then find out approximately how many wolves there are now. Have children use subtraction to determine how many more wolves there once were than there are now.

#### **Science: Other Wild Dogs**

Have books available so children can find out about other wild dogs, such as the fox, coyote, or dingo. Children can report to the rest of the group on where the wild dogs live, what they eat, and how they behave.

#### **Language Arts: Wolf Stories**

Ask children if they can think of a popular story that has a wolf in it, besides the ones that the author mentions in the book. Children may suggest *The Three Little Pigs* or *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. Ask volunteers to tell the stories and talk about how wolves are portrayed in them. Encourage children to work in groups to rewrite the stories, making wolves less villainous.

### INTERNET ACTIVITIES

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Have children use the search word wolves to find websites that reveal facts about these animals. Have each child write down one interesting fact about wolves that is not in the book.