

Defenders of Wildlife

Wolf Discovery Trunk

TEACHER'S MANUAL

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Dear Teacher:

Thank you for your interest in the Defenders of Wildlife Wolf Discovery Trunk. The trunk contains a comprehensive wolf education program. It has everything you need to teach your students all about wolves while sharpening their basic skills in each of the four core disciplines, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.

No animal has endured more intense persecution than the wolf. Human misunderstanding and superstition have contributed to the widespread hatred and fear of this great predator. The campaign to eliminate wolves from America in the 1800s and early 1900s was so intense and effective that wolves were virtually extirpated from most of the lower 48 states. With fewer than 500 animals remaining, wolves became one of the first animals to be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1974.

For more than 20 years, Defenders of Wildlife has worked with other conservation groups and private citizens across the country to restore the wolf to its former range where feasible. We have made great progress, but much remains to be done. Many people are still convinced that the wolf is a savage killer, a danger to the public and a liability to ranchers and farmers. Wolf restoration efforts continue to face opposition at every step of the way despite the overwhelming evidence that top predators are critical to the health of ecosystems.

Through our wolf education program, Defenders hopes to enlist you and your students in our efforts to eliminate the unfounded fears that hinder conservation efforts for wolves. Our strategy is simple: foster knowledge and appreciation of wolves and an understanding of the broader biodiversity and wilderness conservation issues affecting them. With accurate information, you and your students can share the truths you have learned and call upon our elected leaders and others to support wolf restoration.

Let us know if our strategy is working. We will continue to update and revise this conservation curriculum based on your comments, so please fill out the evaluation form in the last section of this manual and return it to us. Again, thank you for your interest in the Wolf Discovery Trunk and for your commitment to our young people.

Sincerely,
Rodger Schlickeisen, President
Defenders of Wildlife

Acknowledgments

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