

The Wolf Pack — A Model Family!

A Lesson to Share with Younger Students

Teacher Notes

Grade: 6 to 9 to share with children in Grades 2 to 4

Group Size: Groups of 4 students working with whole class of younger children

Duration: 50-minute period

Subject: Social Studies

Skills: Sharing knowledge, preparing and delivering a presentation

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

- C Explain and discuss wolf pack life with younger children
- C Work effectively with younger students
- C Evaluate their teaching abilities by comparing younger students' perceptions of wolves before and after learning about pack life

READING ASSIGNMENT:

2. Vital Statistics (review)
4. Pack Life and Communication

MATERIALS:

- C **Lesson Plan: The Wolf Pack – A Model Family**
- C **Drawings by Eva-Lena Rehnmark** (located underneath the link to this lesson on the Social Studies page)
- C Crayons or colored pencils, construction paper

BACKGROUND:

Although the science-based truth about

wolves is finally getting out, the old fairytales and folk tales depicting the wolf as a fearsome devourer of grandmothers and pigs are still popular. These stories demonstrate the real fear that people had of wolves, fears that were not totally unfounded. Wolves DO have big teeth and intense eyes and long snouts, and the idea of being surrounded by a pack of carnivores looking for a tasty meal is enough to make any sensible person wary. The old stories need not be rejected, but read and cherished in light of the truth we now know about wolves. This lesson gives your students a chance to share the truth they have learned with younger students.

PROCEDURES:

- C Arrange for your class, in teaching teams of two to four, to visit second, third and fourth grade classes to share this lesson on wolf pack life.
- C Have your students prepare by reviewing basic wolf biology, outlining and simplifying the pack life reading for presentation to younger students and assembling the materials they will

need, including the stories they will be reading to their students.

- C Hand out **“The Wolf Pack – A Model Family”** lesson plan and review and After their teaching experience have each team report on it and assess their effectiveness as wolf ambassadors.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Have students gather various artists’ depictions of wolves from books, magazines and other publications to show to the younger students. (One illustration they can use is on page 25 of Steve Grooms’ book, “The Return of the Wolf,” (in trunk). They can ask the younger children to compare the drawings they will be coloring in the class to these illustrations by other artists and have them talk about how each artist probably feels towards wolves .

Lesson Plan: The Wolf Pack – A Model Family

This is your chance to be teacher and wolf ambassador. Review the following instructions, gather your materials and report to your teaching assignment well prepared.

- C Read “Little Red Riding Hood” and “The Three Little Pigs” to the children, then have them discuss how they feel about wolves. Ask them about the things that frighten them now or when they were little. Was there a time when they were sure something was hiding under the bed or in the closet? Did these fears fade as they got older and wiser?
- C Explain to the students how the beliefs and fears about wolves that prevailed at the times in which these stories were written shaped the character of the “big bad wolf.”
- C Describe how, thanks to scientists and other observers, we now know wolves play an important role in nature and are fascinating animals deserving of our respect.
- C Share some of the truths you have learned about wolves with the children. Discuss pack life and how it resembles our own family life.
- C Hand out a set of **drawings** to each child. Talk about what each drawing reveals about wolves and pack life.
- C Have the children color the drawings and arrange them in sequential order to make a booklet. Encourage them to give the wolves in the pictures names and write a story or poem about them.
- C After the children have colored the pictures and discussed them, they can make a “book jacket” out of construction paper. Have them draw a picture for the cover and bind the book with yarn or staples. Make them “wolf ambassadors” and urge them to share their booklets and what they have learned about wolves with family and friends.