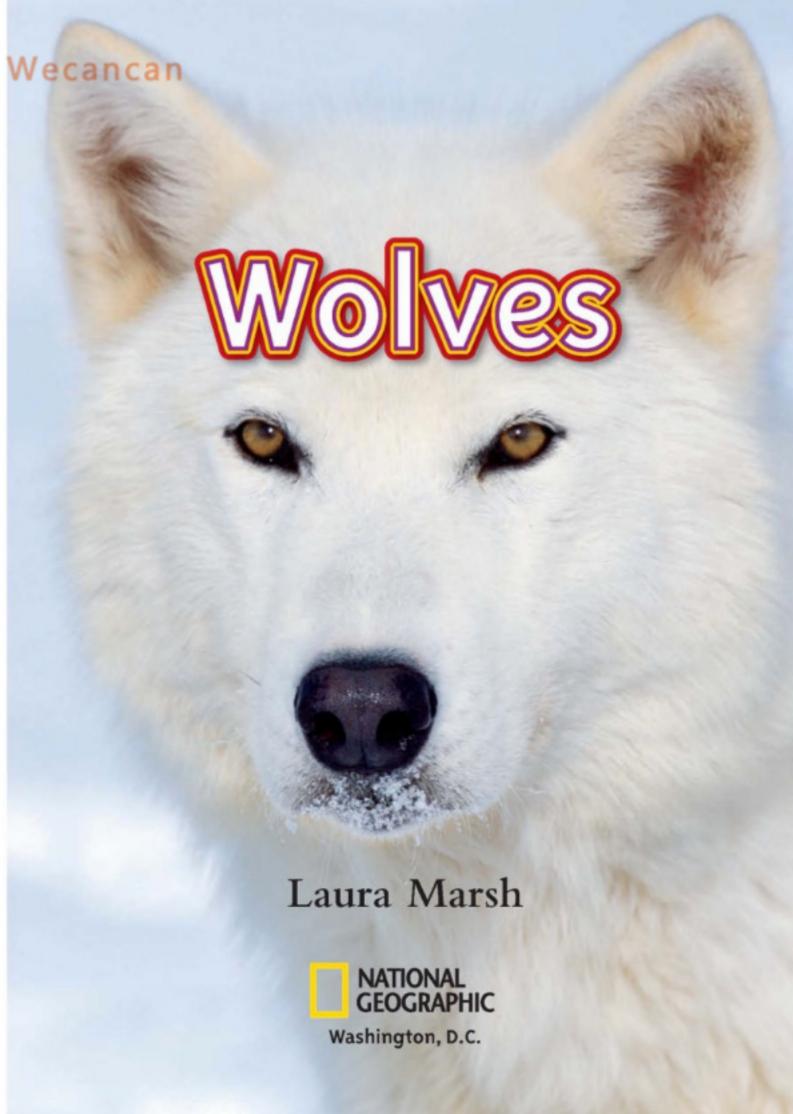


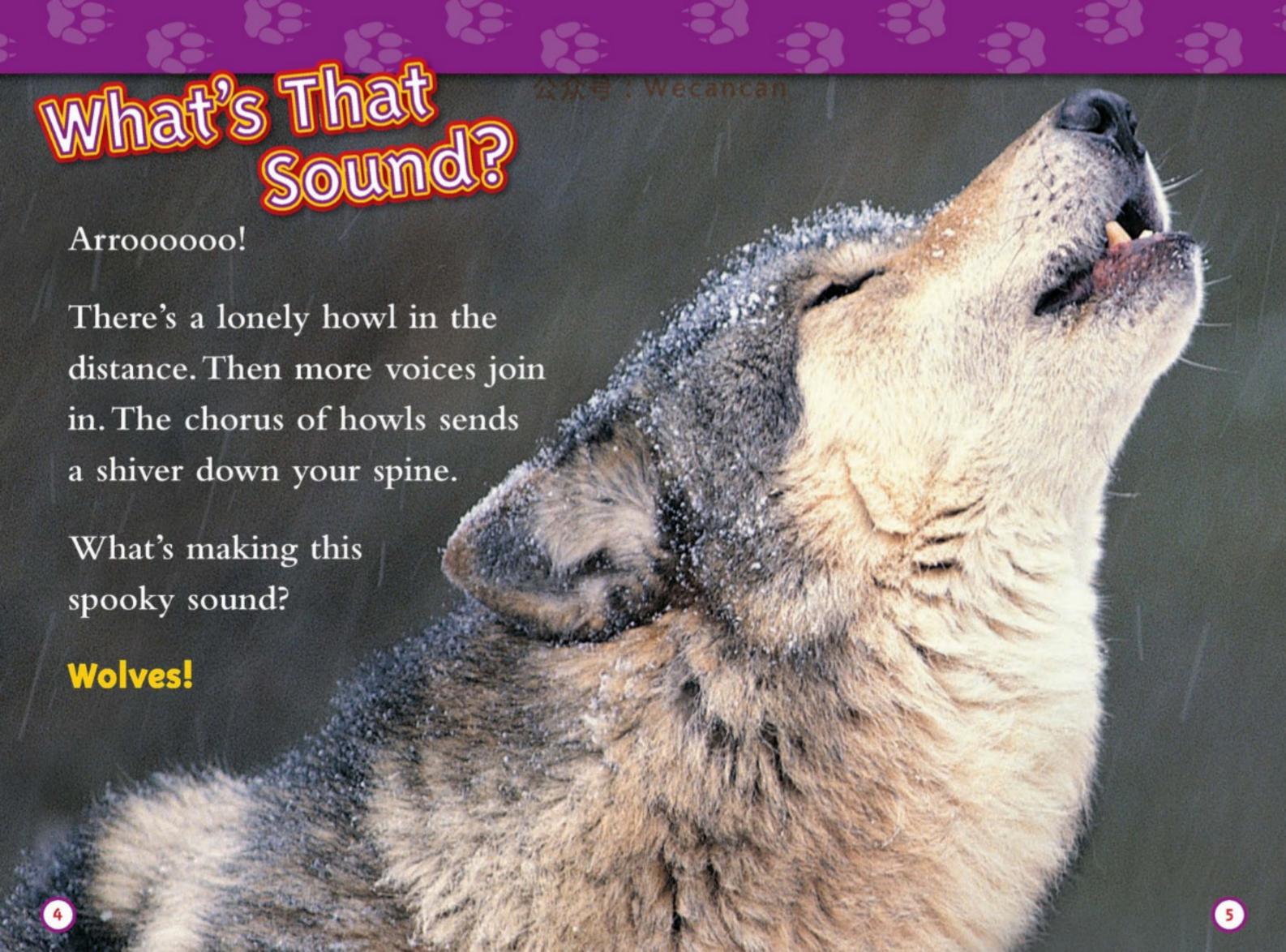
### National Geographic Readers: Wolves

By: Laura Marsh

They run in packs, stalk their prey, and howl at the moon. But are they misunderstood?

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### Wolves All Around

Wolves are found all over the world. They live in hot places like deserts. They also live in cold places like the North Pole.



The most common wolf

is the gray wolf.

There are more than 30 kinds of gray wolves. And they are not just gray. They are brown, black, tan, and white, too.

### Three Kinds of Gray Wolves



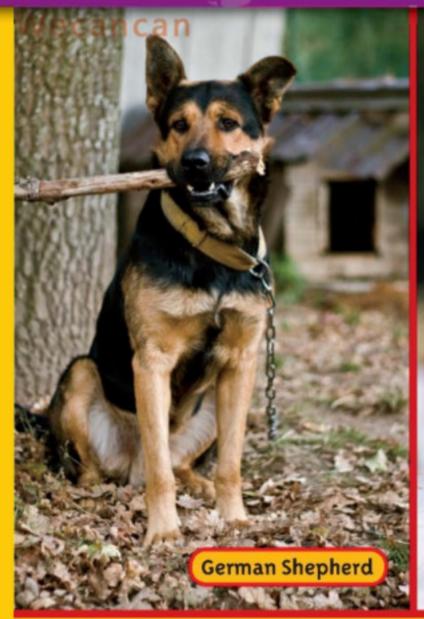




## wolves and Dogs

Wolves are the largest members of the dog family. Foxes, coyotes, jackals, wild dogs, and domestic dogs are also members of this family.







Our pet dogs are relatives of the gray wolf. That's why they look alike.

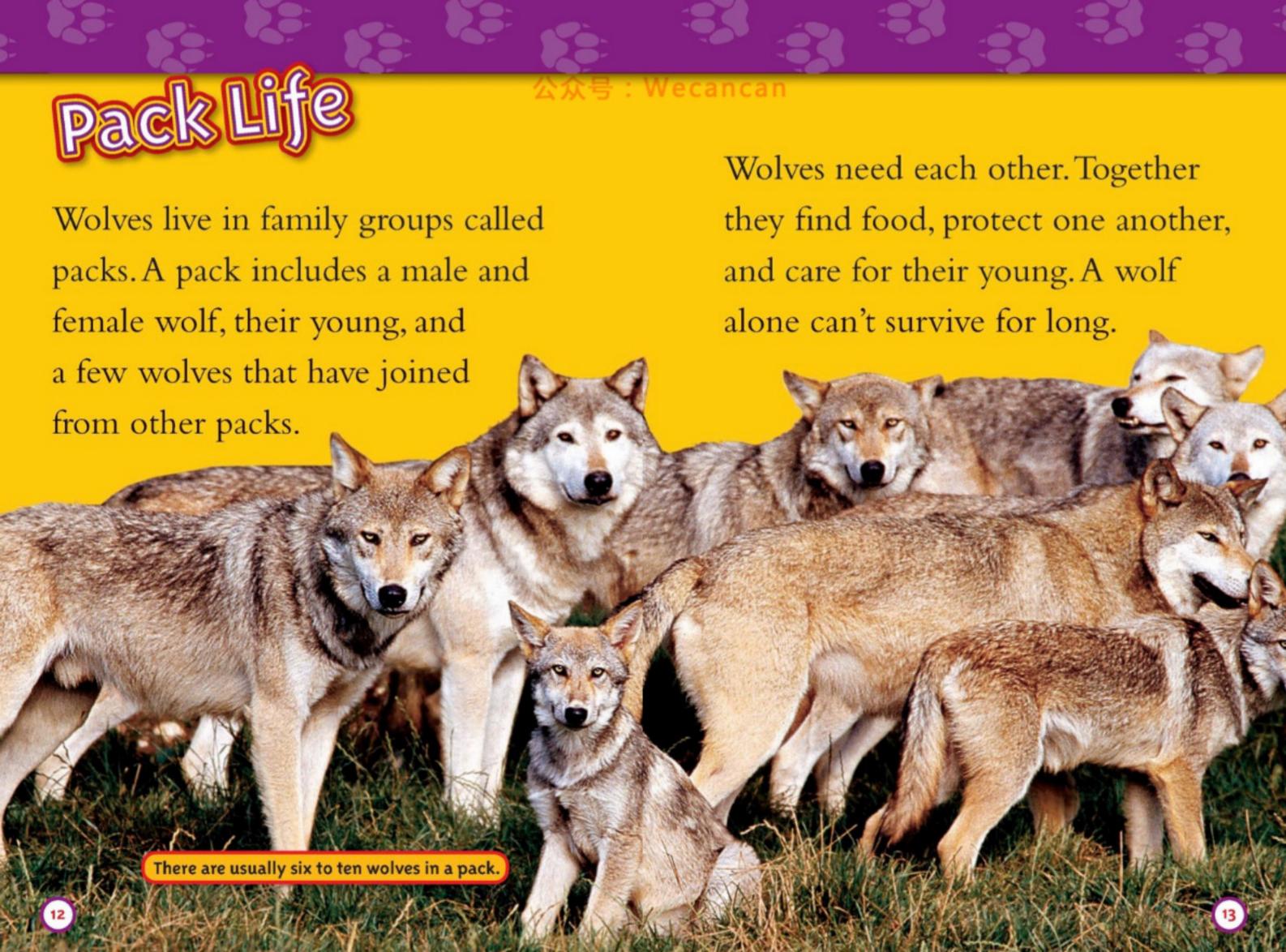




But wolves and dogs are different in several ways.

Wolves have a longer snout, stronger jaws, and larger teeth. Dogs have a rounder head and shorter legs.

The biggest difference is that dogs like to be around people, and wolves would rather be around other wolves.



## Hunting

公众号:Wecancan

Wolves are great hunters. They travel many miles without getting tired. They can usually run faster than their prey.

Wolves eat small animals such as rabbits. They also eat big animals such as moose, deer, caribou, elk, and bison.

And wolves eat a lot. They can each eat 20 pounds of meat in one meal. That's about 200 hot dogs!



## WolfTalk

How do wolves "talk" to the other wolves in their pack? They whimper, bark, growl, and snarl.

But when they need to talk long distance, wolves howl. And when one wolf starts howling, others tend to join in.

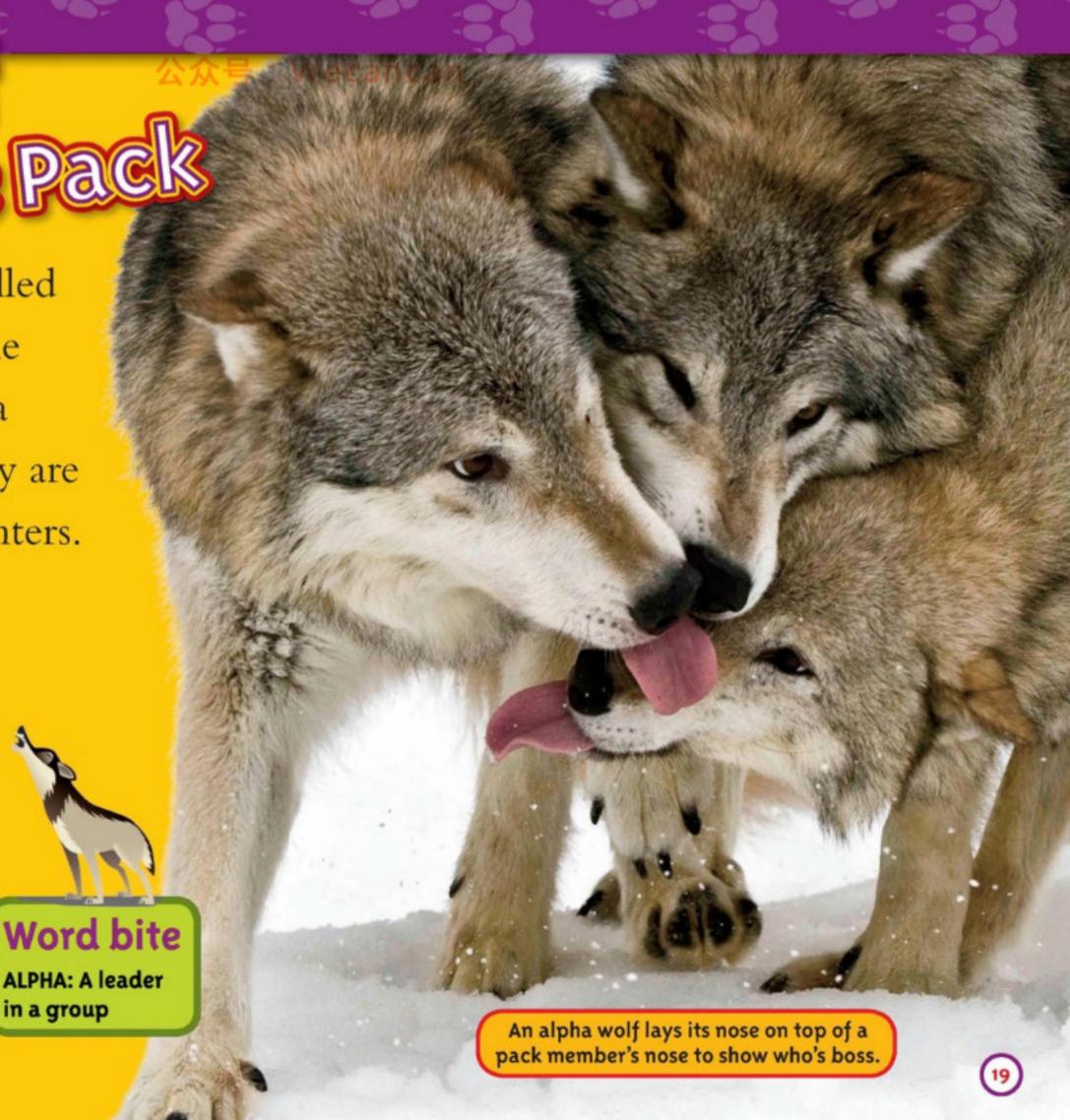
Howling is what wolves are famous for!



### Leaders of the Pack

The pack's leaders are called alpha wolves. There is one alpha male and one alpha female in each pack. They are the smartest and best hunters.

Alpha wolves guide the pack. They decide when to stop hunting and where to sleep at night. Alpha wolves also eat first at every meal.

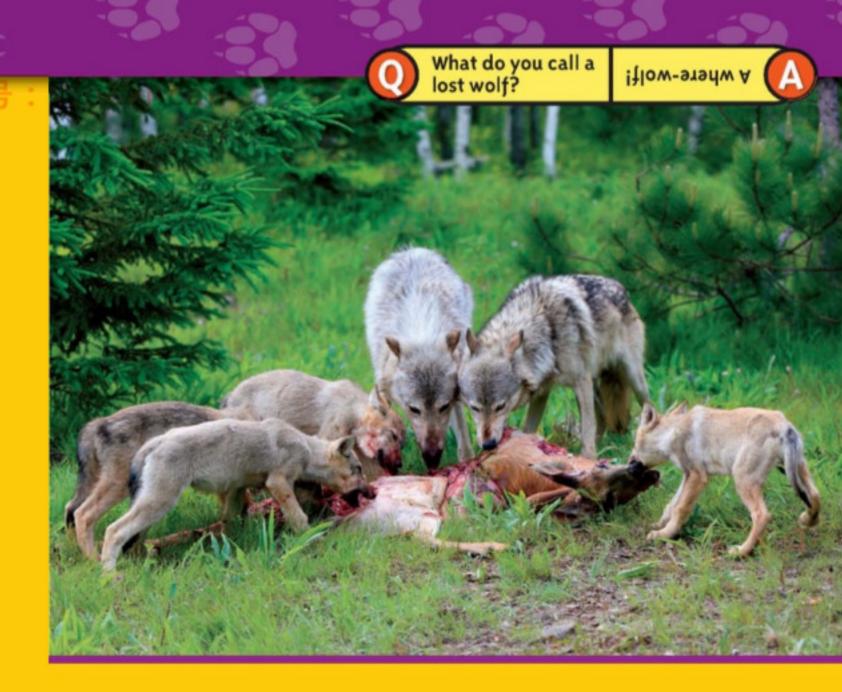




When the pups are bigger, other wolves in the pack care for them, too. They bring the pups food.

They also babysit them while the rest of the pack is hunting.

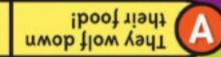




Wolf pups start hunting with the pack when they are six months old. When young wolves are two to three years old, they leave to form their own packs.

### 公众号:Wecancan

How do wolves eat?



### O Wolf Wonders



Pups open their eyes when they are about two weeks old.



A wolf's sense of smell is about 100 times greater than a human's sense of smell.



Newborn pups can't keep themselves warm. They need mom for body heat.



Each wolf has its own howl, which sounds different from the howl of other wolves.



Wolves usually won't hunt outside their own hunting grounds.



An alpha wolf shows who's boss by walking tall with its tail and ears held high.



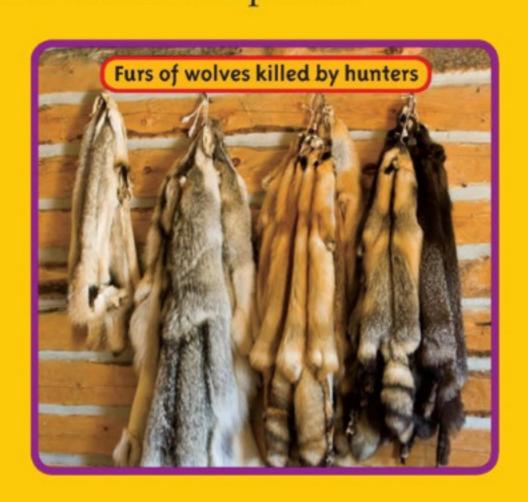
Pups play with "toys" such as a small dead animal from a kill, or a piece of its bone or fur.

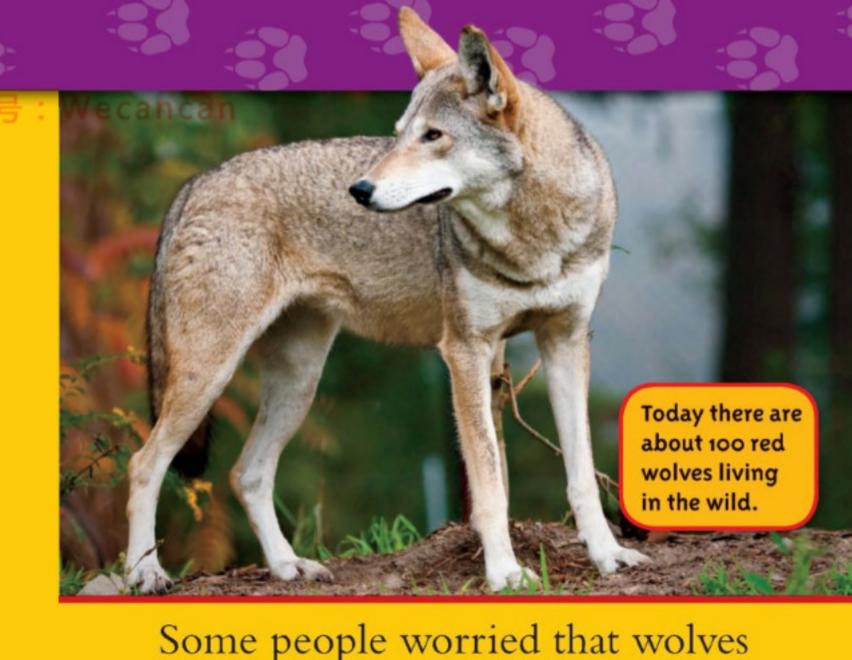


as far as 12 miles in one day!

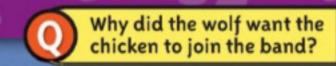
## Fewer Wolves

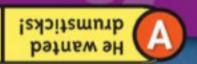
Wolves rarely attack people. They are afraid of them. But wolves do attack farm animals. Mostly for this reason, people have killed millions of wolves. So many wolves were killed that there were no longer any wolves in a lot of places.





might become extinct. So they decided to help. They passed laws to protect wolves. Today wolves are returning to many places around the world.







Wolves have returned to Yellowstone National Park. Once the park had many wolves. But only one wolf was left by 1926.

Scientists brought wolves from Canada into Yellowstone in 1995. The wolves had pups.

Now there are about 100 wolves in Yellowstone. Once again wolves make their home in the park.

## Stump Your Axt we can can Stump Parents

Can your parents answer these questions about wolves? You might know more than they do!

Answers at bottom of page 31.

#### Where do wolves live?

- A. In the desert
- B. In the mountains
- C. In the forest
- D. All of the above





### Wolves like to "talk" long distance to one another by

- A. Chirping
- B. Squealing
- C. Howling
- D. Buzzing

### What is the most common kind of wolf?

- A. Red wolf
- B. Gray wolf
- C. Italian wolf
- D. Werewolf



# 4

### What is the leader of a wolf group called?

- A. Head wolf
- B. President
- C. Alpha wolf
- D. Chief

#### What is a baby wolf called?

- A. A cub
- B. A calf
- C. A pup
- D. A foal



### What is the main reason there are fewer wolves today?

- A. Hunters
- B. Pollution
- C. Hurricanes
- D. Disease

#### What do wolves like to eat?

- A. Hamburgers and french fries
- B. Berries and grasses
- C. Insects
- D. Rabbits, deer, and elk





ALPHA: A leader in a group



DEN: A hidden place in a cave or underground where animals live



DOMESTIC: Tame and kept by humans



EXTINCT: A group of animals no longer living



LITTER: A group of animals born at one time



PREY: An animal that is eaten by another animal