



Student Activity

Yellowstone Wolves: Territoriality & Clan Behavior

NATURE Science Education Series

Vocabulary:

legacy, Alpha, stamina, waxwings, juniper berries, flirt, Casanova, courts, formidable, endurance, exile, Parvo, virus, dispersed, rut, rutting

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What characteristics of Yellowstone National Park make it one of the world's most favorable areas for nature study?

What animals graze or hunt in Yellowstone?

Why were the wolves of Yellowstone once an endangered species?

Why did wildlife biologists re-introduce wolves into Yellowstone?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

What characteristics made the Lamar Valley the best winter range in Yellowstone?

How do biologists distinguish between individual members of wolf clans in Yellowstone? Why do they make these distinctions?

What tactics do wolves use to hunt elk?

How were the Sloughs able to break the Druids' ten-year supremacy in the Lamar Valley? Why were they unable to maintain their supremacy?

How did 302 gain leadership of the Druids? Why were the Druids threatened before their acceptance of 302? Do you think that they accepted him for that reason? What does this tell us about survival in nature?

Further Activities:

Investigate the conditions that have resulted in a doubling of the wolf population in the Northern Rockies, Alaska, or the Midwest.

Find detailed information about wolf species and subspecies based on their geographical location around the world.

Find out if wolves are dangerous to humans. Include an investigation into the problems of "habituated wolves."

Write a persuasive essay explaining why people need to be educated about wolves.