

Wild Kids



Vocabulary

Pack A family of wolves whose members live and work together, hunting for food and taking care of the pups. A pack usually consists of a male and female parent and their offspring from one or more annual litters.

Den A shelter, often a small cave or hole dug out of the ground, to protect the mother wolf and her young pups from weather and other animals.

Habitat The natural environment of a species (plant or animal) that provides food, water, shelter, or cover, and the space required for it to survive. Forests, deserts and lakes are examples of habitats.

Biologist A person who studies living organisms, life processes and/or the animal and plant life of a particular ecosystem. Biologists also study the relationship of living things to one another.

What Inspires You?

Wolves often provide inspiration. Being inspired means that something or someone has influenced you in a way that makes you want to take action. Heidi Pinkerton, a photographer from Babbitt, Minnesota, found her inspiration in a wolf named Maya. After hearing that Maya, a former ambassador wolf, had passed away in March 2011, Heidi decided to try to photograph the *aurora borealis*, or northern lights. As she was setting up her camera, a lone wolf howled in the night air. Later that evening Heidi was able to capture pictures of the northern lights. Those pictures were the first of many northern light photographs that Heidi is famous for today.

Just like wolves inspired Heidi to begin a career as a photographer of northern lights and wildlife, wolves often inspire people to write stories or poems. Wolves also inspire people to advocate for wildlife. When you look at the photo of Luna, think about the ways that wolves inspire you and what you can do to make a positive difference in the world.



Luna came to the International Wolf Center in 2012. She is a Great Plains subspecies of *Canis lupus*, the gray wolf. Luna is the only female in the Center's Exhibit Pack. The last time she was examined, Luna weighed 91 pounds (41.3 kilograms), but she was still shedding her thick undercoat. Being a black color phase wolf, Luna enjoys lying in the shade on hot days, so she can stay cooler. Black hair tends to absorb more heat. Less than 5 percent of Minnesota's wolves have black coats.





Kelly Godfrey

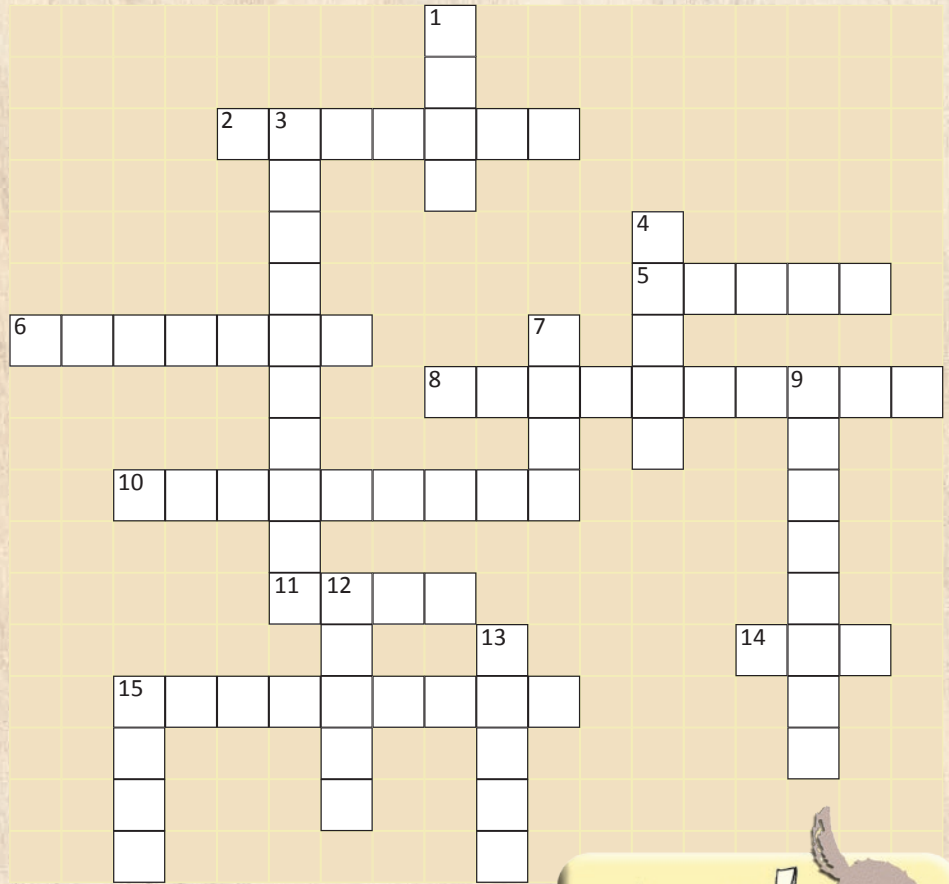


What were once known as the alpha male and alpha female are today called the breeding male and breeding female. This change in terminology is due to a shift in thinking about the behaviors of wolves and how they live as a social group, or pack. The wolf pack consists of a breeding pair, a mature male and female, who have come together to mate and raise pups. The next year the breeding pair will raise another litter of pups. The older siblings dominate the younger pups. As the older siblings mature, they disperse, or go out on their own, to find a mate and begin a new family. ■

Luna



Kelly Godfrey



Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. The ___ wolf once ranged throughout Mexico and the American Southwest.
5. The leader of a wolf pack was once known as the ___.
6. One way wolves communicate is by ___.
8. Flesh-eating animals, including wolves, cats and bears, are called ___.
10. A wolf pack establishes its own _____, an area in which it lives and hunts, and in which other packs are not usually allowed.

11. Wolves are related to ___.

14. The ___ wolf (*Canis rufus*) used to range throughout the southeastern United States.
15. A _____ is a lone wolf that has left its pack.

Down

1. Wolves are social animals that usually live in a family unit called a ___.
3. Throughout most of the United States, the wolf was once protected by law as an ___ species.

4. ___ lupus is the scientific name for the gray wolf.

7. A ___ animal is one that is hunted by a carnivore like the wolf.
9. Wolf _____ is the goal of efforts to return wolves to their historic range.
12. The lowest ranking member of a wolf pack is called the ___.
13. Both red wolves and gray wolves were once native to the state of ___.
15. Moose, elk and ___ are among the prey animals hunted by wolves.