



INTERNATIONAL WOLF

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**Wildlife Research:
From Ear Tags to Armchair, Part I** PAGE 4

We Wish They All Could Be California Wolves PAGE 8

Wild Kids



Citizen Science

This young man, watching our ambassador wolves in their enclosure, is demonstrating observation, a first step in practicing citizen science!

All over the world, girls and boys dream of putting on lab coats and becoming scientists. Some kids want to be biologists, some want to study human behavior, some want to be astronomers—but most of them make one mistake. They think they can't start being scientists until they enter college or until they get a degree. Not true! Some kids also believe science is boring work that happens in a dark laboratory. So not true! Real science is about curiosity and exploration—and curiosity is not restricted to any one place. Plenty of science is happening all around you, and it's easy to get involved! In

fact, a great way to become a scientist is to start early.

Citizen science is a concept that is spreading across the globe. Ordinary people—kids and adults—help scientists every day by doing things like reporting butterfly sightings, recording temperature data, observing bird migration patterns, marking wildlife tracks and scat, and more. They give scientists eyes and ears in places they may not be able to go. Scientists may have huge amounts of data to analyze, or projects that require hours of observation time. Citizens can help by offering their time and skills. You can be involved in the sciences in ways you never thought possible! Use these website links to learn more about how to participate in citizen science programs. Happy researching!

nationalgeographic.org/ideal-citizen-science-projects/

pbskids.org/scigirls/citizen-science

www.learner.org/jnorth/scistarter.com



Ambassador wolf Grayson demonstrates observation.

Andrew Broz

Vocabulary

Subspecies

The “subspecies” is a second name that follows a species name to more specifically describe an animal. Two species of wolf live in North America—the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and the red wolf (*Canis rufus*). Often, the subspecies helps identify the geographical region where the animal lives. The Arctic subspecies for example, *Canis lupus arctos*, lives mostly in the arctic tundra, and usually has a distinctive white coat. You may notice that our newest pups, Axel and Grayson, have a distinct white coat as well. That is because they are the arctic subspecies of gray wolf.

Also, keep in mind that ‘gray wolf’ is a species name, not a description. You may hear other names, such as black wolf, white wolf and timber wolf; but these are not a different species or subspecies of wolf. All of those are just nicknames or descriptions for gray wolves.

Don Gossett



Ambassador Wolf Behavior: Jaw Spar

Jaw sparring is a common wolf behavior in which two wolves jockey for position over each other with open mouths, often accompanied by snarling or growling. This is usually in the context of play behavior, but also sometimes can be an attempt to gain dominant status. In the photo, we can see wolf pup brothers Axel and Grayson jaw sparring near the observation window at the International Wolf Center.

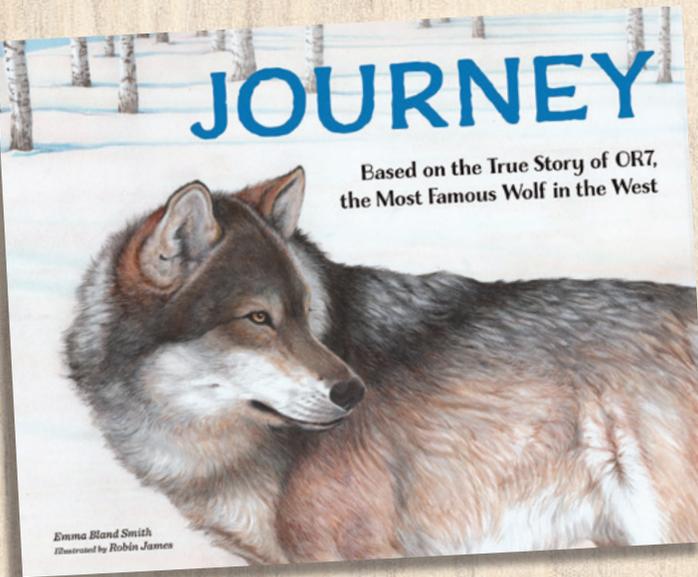
Andrew Broz

Journey

Book Review by Debra Mitts-Smith

What happens to a wolf when it leaves its pack? Where does it go? How does it find other wolves?

Emma Bland Smith's new picture book, *Journey*, is based on the life of a real wolf (originally named OR-7 by scientists who radio-collared him) who left his pack and traveled more than 2,000 miles to find a new home and a mate. It also tells the story of a young girl, Abby, who followed newspaper and TV reports of Journey as he traveled from northeastern Oregon to California before settling down near the Rogue River in southern Oregon.



Recommended for grades Kindergarten through Fourth.

Journey's story is a tale of firsts. In 2009, he was one of the first wild-born wolf pups in Oregon in more than 60 years. In 2012, when he crossed into California, he became the first wild wolf to enter that state in almost 100 years.

As we read about Journey, Robin James' pictures show us the woods, lakes and mountains where Journey's trek led him. When we read about Abby's growing interest in Journey, James' illustrations show Abby trying to help by reading about wolves and entering a contest to name him.

Smith fills the last pages of her book with facts about the real Journey, including a map showing his route and a timeline of his life. Best of all are photographs of the real Journey with three of his pups—images that allow us to hope this brave traveler's bloodline will live on in Oregon. ■

Be sure to read the book review *Journey: The Amazing Story of OR-7, The Oregon Wolf That Made History*, for grades four through eight on page 32.