

# Wolves Webquest

## An Internet WebQuest on wolves

created by Nancy Brown  
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### Introduction

Imagine that you and a team of learners are presented with the task of describing an elephant. You are each blindfolded and guided to an elephant. Each of you touches a different part of the animal. Based upon what each of you explored, each will have a different point of view about elephants. Which is the truth? When we study complex topics, there is usually a lot more to a topic than we learn after a quick exploration.

In the following WebQuest, you will use the power of teamwork to learn all about wolves and to help decide whether or not they should be placed back on the Endangered Species list. Each person on your team will become an expert on some aspect of wolves and then you will come together at the end to share and get a better understanding of the topic as a whole.

**BIG QUESTION: Should all wild wolf populations in the United States be placed back on the Endangered Species list in order to receive protection against hunters, trappers, and ranchers?**

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### Task

You and your team members have been assigned specific roles. You will use the links provided as well as other resources (library, etc) to become experts on your roles. You and your team will work together to create a Group Report that presents your team's answer to the Big Question.

By completing this WebQuest, you should achieve the following goals:

- 1) Develop an interest in the study of wolves.
  - 2) Use the power of the Internet for advanced exploration.
  - 3) Learn information about key aspects of wolves and their protection under national and state laws.
  - 4) Realize that complex topics can be looked at from various perspectives.
  - 5) Formulate and support an opinion based on your roles.
  - 6) Work with teammates to determine a combined action plan.
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## Process

You will be working together as a group exploring web sites that your teacher has selected. You should start with the pages that are labeled 'Background Information' before researching your specific role. Each person playing a role has his/her own Task to complete and a separate set of web sites to use.

## Phase 1 - Background Information

These sites are important because they will provide basic information about the topic as a whole. Everyone should explore these sites before starting his/her Task.

Learn about wolf behavior and survival by viewing the following websites. Next, answer the following questions using information found on these websites.

1. How do wolf pack members work together to survive?
2. What natural predators do wolves have?
3. How and when were wolves reintroduced in the Rocky Mountain area? When were they removed from the Endangered Species list?
4. How do wolves adapt to their environment?

- [CNN](#)
- [Wolf Country](#)
- [National Public Radio](#)
- [PBS](#)
- [Wolf.org](#)



## Phase 2 - Roles

These roles were chosen because they each define the most important elements of wolves. Each of you has been assigned a particular role with links and instructions below. Here are the general instructions for all of you. Please see your specific instructions and questions below.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. One member from each WebQuest team will explore each of the roles below.
2. Read through the webpages designated for your role. You can print out pages and underline the parts that you feel are important, or you can cut and paste from the webpage into a Word document.
3. Remember to include the URL of the page you take information from so that you can return to it and use it as a citation.

4. Focus what you've learned into one main opinion that answers the Big Question or Task.

**Role 1: Supporters of Wolves/Environmentalists:**

- [Greater Yellowstone](#)
- [Defenders of Wildlife](#)
- [Earth Justice](#)
- [Wolves and Willows](#)

You are a supporter of wolves. You believe that they should be put back onto the Endangered Species list. Answer the following questions using the links provided:

1. How are wolves important to the ecosystem? How does their presence benefit other plants and animals?
2. How many wolves do scientists think are necessary to sustain a strong wolf population in the wild?
3. What is the greatest threat to wolves today?



**Role 2: Opponents of Wolves/Hunters/Ranchers:**

- [Hunt Wolves.com](#)
- [Lobo Watch](#)
- [Free Republic](#)
- [Billings Gazette](#)

You are an opponent of wolves. You believe that national and state governments should allow controlled hunting of wolves. Answer the following questions using the links provided:

1. What damage do wolves cause to the ecosystem?
2. What methods can hunters use to locate or attract wolves?
3. How do wolves negatively affect ranchers and their livestock (sheep, cattle)?

**Role 3: U.S. Government/U.S. Fish & Wildlife/DNR:**

- [Idaho Fish and Game](#)
- [Department of Natural Resources petition](#)
- [Yellowstone Interactive Map](#)
- [PBS Are Wolves at Risk?](#)

You work for a government agency that has input on how wild wolf populations should be managed and controlled. Use these links to answer the following questions:

1. How does Idaho manage its wolf population?
2. Why does the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) in Minnesota want to delist (remove) Great Lakes area wolves from the Endangered Species list?
3. What survival challenges do the Yellowstone Park wolf packs face?

#### **Role 4: Tourists Who Want to Observe & Learn about Wolves:**

- [Google Images](#)
- [Bearman's Yellowstone Adventures](#)
- [National Park Service](#)

You are a tourist who would like to see wolves in Yellowstone National Park and learn about them. View the following websites to see how wolves affect tourism, and answer the following questions:



1. How does the presence of wolves encourage visitors to come to Yellowstone National Park? What would happen to national park attendance if wolves were no longer present in the parks?
2. Name the different colors of wolf fur that you see in the photos. Describe what you find appealing about wolves.
3. What is the best season to see a wolf in Yellowstone?

#### **Phase 3 - Reaching Consensus**

You have all learned about different views about wolf protection under the law. Now group members come back to the larger WebQuest team with expertise gained by searching from one perspective. You must all now complete the Task as a group. Each of you will bring a certain viewpoint to the answer: some of you will agree and others disagree. Use information, pictures, movies, facts, opinions, etc. from the web sites you explored to convince your teammates that your viewpoint is important and should be part of your team's response. **Your WebQuest team should write out an answer to the Big Question that everyone on the team can live with.**

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#### **Conclusion**

So is an elephant smooth, rough, soft, or hard? Well, when you're blindfolded and only \*looking\* at one part, it's easy to come up with an answer that may not be completely right. It's the same for understanding a topic as broad or complex as wolves: when you only know part of the picture, you only know part of the picture. Now you all know a lot more. Nice work. You should be proud of yourselves! How can you use what you've learned to see beyond the black and white of a topic and into the grayer areas? What other parts of wolf protection could still be explored? Remember, learning never stops.

