

Science

Genre

A **Nonfiction Encyclopedia** article gives information and facts about a topic.

Text Feature

Encyclopedia entries may have several sections. A **Head** tells what information is found in each section.

Content Vocabulary

habitats

roam

prey

WOLVES

Wolves are wild animals that are related to the dog family. They look similar to dogs, but they have longer legs and larger feet. They also have more powerful jaws.

Wolves live in different areas, or **habitats**. Some wolves are gray. Others are almost black. Wolves that live in north Alaska are white. All wolves have a long, bushy tail.



Habitat

Wolves live in forests or mountain habitats. They need lots of land because they move around. They **roam** 20 miles a day to look for food. Wolves are endangered animals. They used to live all over North America. Now they live in northern forests and Alaska.

Food

Wolves are hunters. They have a good sense of smell. This helps them find their **prey**. Wolves that live in forests eat mice, rabbits, deer, and moose. Wolves in Alaska also eat caribou or oxen. Finding food is not easy for wolves. Sometimes they follow a herd for several days. They swallow food in large pieces without chewing. Wolves can eat 20 pounds of meat at one time.



Life Cycle

The female gives birth to pups in the spring. First, she finds or digs a den. Often she will use the same den over and over. The cubs cannot see or hear when they are born. Their mother stays with them for about three weeks. During this time, the male brings food for the mother to eat.

After about a month, the pups can eat meat. All of the pack members hunt food for them. The female hunts, too. Another pack member takes care of the pups while she is away. By fall, the pups have learned to hunt. They are ready to travel with the pack.



Encyclopedia entries often have words in dark print called heads. These summarize what the following section will be about.

The Pack

Wolves live in family groups called packs. A pack may have 7 or 8 wolves. One male is the leader of the pack. He has a female mate. Their children are part of the pack, too. A pack may also have an aunt or an uncle.



Connect and Compare



1. In which section would you find information about where wolves live? What did you learn about in the section with the head “Food”?
Heads
2. Think about the encyclopedia entry and *Nutik, the Wolf Pup*. Write a story about how Nutik’s life would have been different if he never left his pack. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Science Activity

Research a type of wolf. Write facts about what the wolf looks like and where it lives.



Find out more about wolves at
www.macmillanmh.com

Write a Book Report

Writer's Craft

A Strong Conclusion

Writing a **strong conclusion** helps the reader understand the main idea of your writing.

My report gives a short summary of the book's plot.

I wrote a strong conclusion to make my report clear.



A Report on Animals of the Sea and Shore

by Jan O.

I really liked Animals of the Sea and Shore by Ann O. Squire.

The book describes many animals that live in or near the ocean.

Some animals, like whales, live in the water. Other animals live on shore, like snails.

I also learned some unusual facts. Did you know that sea otters sleep floating on their backs? If you like learning about the creatures that live by the water, you'll like Animals of the Sea and Shore.

Your Turn

Write a book report. Give the title and name the author. For picture books, include the name of the illustrator. Tell what the book is about and why you like it or don't like it. Write a good concluding sentence. Then use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas:** Did I write a good **concluding sentence** to make my ideas clear?
- Organization:** Does my report give the title and author? Does it give a summary of the plot and tell how I felt about the book?
- Conventions:** Did I use an apostrophe correctly in each contraction?
- Voice:** Does the report sound like the way I talk?