

Wolves

The wolf is a large predator of the Canidae family. They are the ancestors of all breeds of domestic (pet) dogs. They come from the same group as the dingo and coyote.

Big Facts

- Wolves are fast runners. They can reach speeds of 40mph to chase prey.
- Wolves are amazing hunters and they have a very keen sense of smell and hearing.
- Wolves live and hunt in groups called packs.
- Most wolves weigh about 40kg.
- Wolf pups are born blind and deaf.



Where do they live?

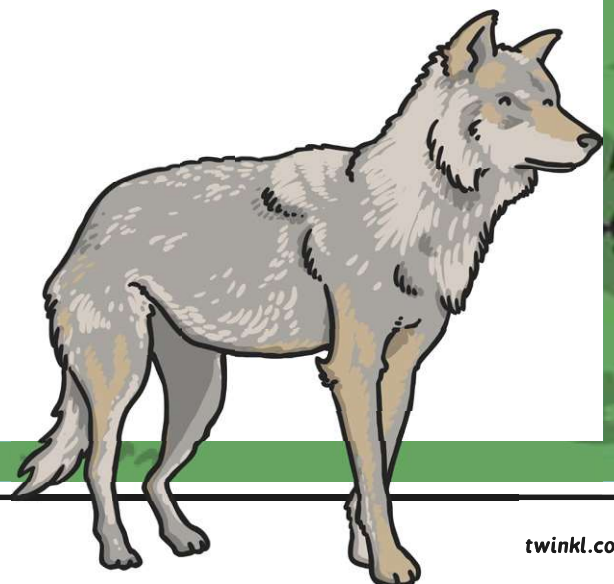
The grey wolf comes from remote areas of Europe, Asia and North America. Wild red wolves only live in the United States of America. Wolves can live in a variety of habitats including woodlands, grasslands, forests and deserts. They can survive in very cold and hot temperatures, from -50°C to 40°C !

What do they eat?

Wolves are carnivores, they eat animals. Wolves that hunt alone catch small animals like rabbits, hares and squirrels. But a pack of wolves can catch very big animals such as moose, caribou and elk. They also eat small amounts of fruit and berries when they are in season. Arctic wolves in particular have to travel very far to hunt for food.

Similarities and Differences

There are two well-known species in the world, the red wolf and the grey wolf (known as the gray wolf, timber wolf or western wolf), and a third debated species, the Ethiopian wolf. Red wolves are smaller than most grey wolves, have pointier faces and a howl that is more screechy and higher in pitch. Wild red wolves are an endangered species, but only some types of grey wolves are. There are then five subspecies of the grey wolf including the Mexican wolf and Arctic wolf. Arctic wolves are white and so blend in with snow in their natural habitat. Wolves are usually black, white or grey but can also be red, brown and grey-brown. They may look similar to dogs, but wolves think and act in very different ways.



Questions about Wolves

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What family do wolves belong to?

2. What are wolves good at?

3. What is surprising about wolf pups when they are first born?

4. Where does the grey wolf come from?

5. What temperatures can wolves survive in?

6. Which animals do wolves hunt alone?

7. Which animals do wolves hunt as part of a pack?

8. Explain three differences between the grey and red wolf.

9. What colours are wolves?

Questions about Wolves **Answers**

1. What family do wolves belong to?

The wolf is a large predator of the Canidae family.

2. What are wolves good at?

Wolves are fast runners and amazing hunters. (Also accept smelling and hearing)

3. What is surprising about wolf pups when they are first born?

Wolf pups are born blind and deaf.

4. Where does the grey wolf come from?

The grey wolf comes from remote areas of Europe, Asia and North America.

5. What temperatures can wolves survive in?

They can survive in very cold and hot temperatures, from -50°C to 40°C!

6. Which animals do wolves hunt alone?

Wolves that hunt alone catch small animals like rabbits, hares and squirrels.

7. Which animals do wolves hunt as part of a pack?

A pack of wolves can catch very big animals such as moose, caribou and elk.

8. Explain two differences between the grey and red wolf.

Red wolves are smaller than most grey wolves, have pointier faces and a howl that is more screechy and higher in pitch. (Accept any two)

9. What colours are wolves?

Wolves are usually black, white or grey but can also be red, brown and grey-brown.