

NOTE ABOUT WOLVES



The wolves in the *Beauty and the Beast* story are portrayed as a threat to humans. Wolves in stories like *Little Red Riding Hood*, the *Three Little Pigs* and *Peter and the Wolf* are often seen as scary or threatening. *The Jungle Book* was one of the first literary works that portrayed wolves as a family in a positive manner.



The gray wolf is the largest canine in North America. Wolves are highly expressive and social, especially when they howl as a pack. Each wolf has its own distinct howl. A pack is usually composed of an alpha male and mate and their pups. Wolf attacks on humans are very rare and the wolf has developed a fear of humans. They can travel up to 125 miles in one day at speeds of 5 miles per hour and can run as fast as 40 miles per hour.

In the West there are many opinions about wolves. Ranchers want to protect their livestock and conservationists want to restore natural habitats. The reintroduction of wolves has helped to restore the landscape and the ecology of habitats. In Yellowstone National Park, wolves were reintroduced and the area showed improved beaver populations, increases in vegetation, and aspen trees.

May the children portraying the wolves in our production remind us of the beauty in wolves more than the dangers of our fears, myths, and stories.

Further Resources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolf>

<https://coloradooutdoorsmag.com/2023/12/19/wolf-update-cpw-successfully-releases-gray-wolves/>

<https://wrcd-dccd.colorado.gov/natural-resource-topics/wildlife/wolves-in-colorado>

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/wildlife/wolf-reintroduction-changes-ecosystem/>