

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Read a report and decide sub-titles for the paragraphs

- Read [Grey Wolf Report](#)
- Decide a sub-heading for each of the paragraphs. Write your sub-heading on the report, above each of the paragraphs.
- Look at [Grey Wolf Report Diagram](#). Can you match each circle to the paragraphs in the report? Put a number on each of the circles in the diagram to show which paragraph matches.

2. Making a skeleton diagram from a report.

- Read [Arctic Wolf Report](#).
- Look at [Arctic Wolf Report Diagram](#). Write the facts that have been used in the report as notes in the rectangle boxes.

3. Researching vocabulary

- Read the [Vocabulary List](#). This is some technical vocabulary to do with wolves. Choose five words that you are not sure about and use a web-search to find out their meaning. Write a short definition.

Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Make a visual glossary from the [Vocabulary List](#). Choose some words, write the meanings and illustrate them to make the meaning really clear.
- Choose either the Grey Wolf or the Arctic Wolf and try to find out more about them. What is the most surprising thing about this animal? What is the thing that it is most important that people know?
- Read the [Hunt Text](#). Make pictures that would show each stage of the hunt.

Grey Wolf Report

The grey wolf is a member of the dog or canine family. They are a territorial, social and predatory animal. Their Latin name is *Canis lupus*.

The grey wolf inhabits the wilderness and remote areas of Eurasia and North America. They can live in a variety of habitats and may be found in deserts, grasslands, forests and arctic tundras.



The grey wolf can appear similar to other types of wolf. Like the red wolf though, it is distinguished by its larger size and less pointed features, particularly on the ears and muzzle. Its fur is long and bushy and is mainly mottle grey in colour.

The grey wolf is large, powerful and heavy. Its body is designed so that it can cover long distances and it can move very quickly when it is hunting. It has very strong teeth that are sufficient to break open most bones. Its fur is highly resistant to cold and provides better insulation than dog fur.

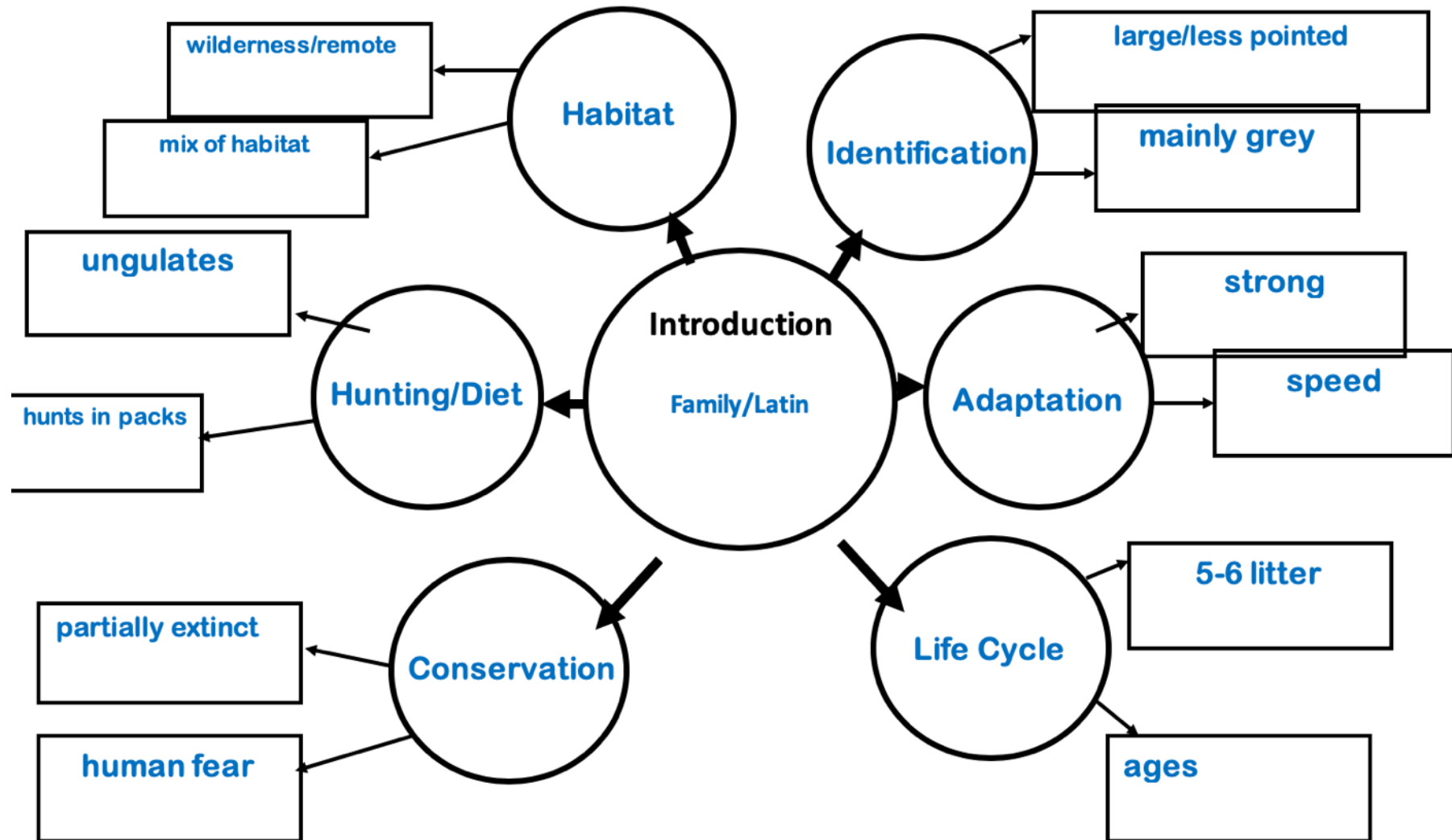
Wolves are carnivores and mainly eat large, hooved mammals (ungulates). It specialises in preying on vulnerable individuals of large prey. It will hunt in packs or individually. Grey wolves locate their prey through scent and then conceal themselves as they approach. They try to intimidate their prey into running and then chase it (to wear it out) before catching and eating it.

Wolf pups are born in the spring. On average a litter will consist of 5-6 pupils. Female wolves give birth in dens. Pups first leave the den after 3 weeks. After six weeks they are agile enough to escape from danger. By the autumn they are mature enough to accompany adults on hunts for large prey. Wolves tend to live together in groups called 'packs'. Most wolves live about seven years.

The Wolf is now extinct in much of Western Europe, in Mexico and in the United States. This is mainly because of the actions of humans who fear wolves' attacks on their livestock. Wolves are an important predator and their presence in the environment can help the health of other animals and plants.

Grey Wolf Report Diagram

Title: Grey Wolf Report



Arctic Wolf Report

The Arctic wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*), also known as the white wolf or polar wolf, is a subspecies of grey wolf.

It inhabits the Queen Elizabeth Islands in the Arctic from Melville Island to Ellesmere Island.

The Arctic wolf can be distinguished from the grey wolf by its smaller size, its white coat, its narrower head and its larger carnassial teeth.

The Arctic Wolf is adapted to its cold surrounding. It has white fur which allows it to blend into its surrounding. It preserves heat by having much smaller more-rounded ears and it has a shorter muzzle and shorter legs than other wolves. They are bulkier than grey wolves. Some males grow as heavy as 80kg.

In the wild, Arctic wolves primarily prey on muskoxen and Arctic hares. They have also been found to prey on lemmings, caribou, Arctic foxes and beetles. Arctic wolves hunt in packs. They roam large areas to find their prey up to and beyond 2600km². They will follow migrating caribou in the winter. Polar bears are rarely encountered by wolves, though there are two records of wolf packs killing polar bear cubs.

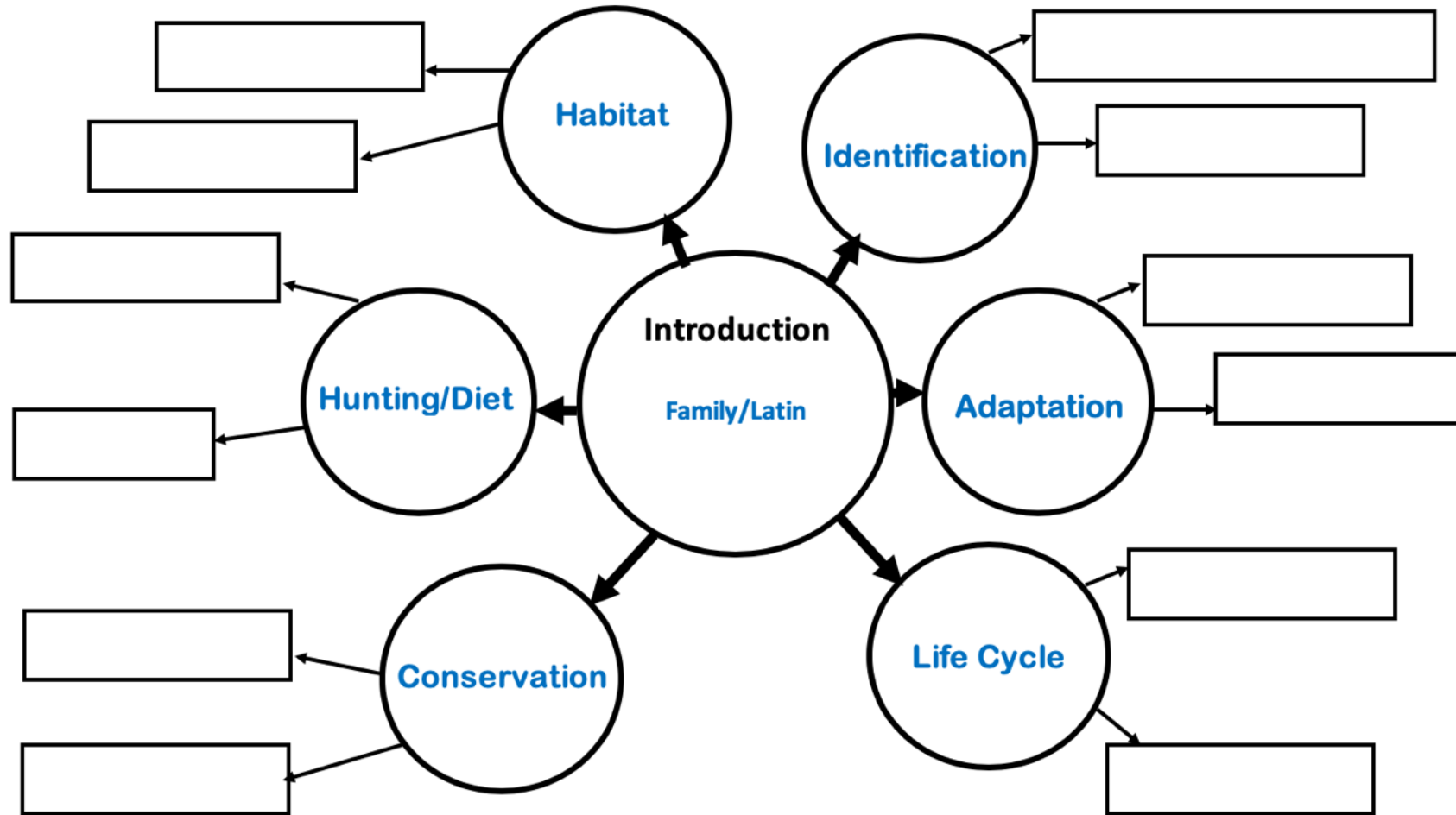
Arctic Wolves use rock outcroppings and caves for dens as the ground can be too cold to dig. The mother gives birth to 2 or 3 pups in late May or Early June about a month later than Grey Wolves. The wolf pups stay with their mother for two years. The average lifespan of an Arctic Wolf is between 7 and 10 years.

The Arctic Wolf is classed as 'Least Concern' as its population is stable. It does face threats of endangerment. In 1997, there was a decline in the Arctic wolf population due to harmful weather conditions during the summers for four years. The recovery of the Arctic Wolf population came when summer weather conditions returned to normal.



Arctic Wolf Report Diagram

Title: Arctic Wolf



Vocabulary List

canine
native
extant
distinguished
species
muzzle
mottled
specialised
adaptations
gregarious
expressive
hybrid
social
nuclear family
offspring
apex predator
ungulates
carrion
habitat
dense
insulation
competition
territorial
litter
carcass
communication
olfactory

Definition: _____

Definition: _____

Definition: _____

Definition: _____

Hunt Text

A grey wolf hunt can be divided into five stages:

Locating prey

The wolves travel in search of prey through their power of scent, chance encounter, and tracking. Wolves typically locate their prey by scent, though they must usually be directly downwind of it. When a breeze carrying the prey's scent is located, the wolves stand alert, and point their eyes, ears and nose towards their target.

The stalk

The wolves attempt to conceal themselves as they approach. As the gap between the wolves and their prey closes, the wolves quicken their pace, wag their tails, and peer intently, getting as close to their quarry as possible without making it flee.

The encounter

Once the prey detects the wolves, it can either approach the wolves, stand its ground, or flee. Large prey, such as moose, elk, and muskoxen, usually stand their ground. Should this occur, the wolves hold back, as they require the stimulus of a running animal to proceed with an attack. If the targeted animal stands its ground, the wolves either ignore it, or try to intimidate it into running.

The rush

If the prey attempts to flee, the wolves immediately pursue it. This is the most critical stage of the hunt, as wolves may never catch up with prey running at top speed. If their prey is travelling in a group, the wolves either attempt to break up the herd, or isolate one or two animals from it.

The chase

A continuation of the rush, the wolves attempt to catch up with their prey and kill it. When chasing small prey, wolves attempt to catch up with their prey as soon as possible, while with larger animals, the chase is prolonged, in order to wear the selected prey out.