

## **NEWS BREAK**

Article: **Endangered gray wolf population on the rise in Southwest U.S.**

Section: **MAIN, A8**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, March 22, 2020** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

***\*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.***

### **Standards:**

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1**

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2**

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### **Objectives:**

***Students will talk about their preconceived notions about wolves and where they were first introduced to these animals. They'll discuss their prior knowledge about wolves. They will debate the problem from both the environmentalists and ranchers sides and whether there is a viable solution for both parties involved. Students will discuss what they think can be done for the animals to co-exist in the same region or whether some of the wolves should be rehomed in a different area. Students will come up with their own plan to help fix this problem.***

**Pre-Reading Discussion:**



- What do you think the article will be about?
- Are there clues in the pictures?
- What can you infer?

### **Vocabulary Building:**

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“The challenges are mounting as ranchers and rural residents say the situation for them has become **untenable** as 2019 marked a record year for livestock kills.”

### ***Untenable Guess***

### ***Untenable Definition***

### **Comprehension Questions:**

1. The rest of the team on the ground was anxious to hear those words after the low-flying helicopter crew had been working all morning to get close to one of the \_\_\_\_\_ that had been targeted as part of an annual survey of the endangered predators.
2. For months, crews combed the rugged mountains of the southwestern United States, tracking collared wolves and looking for evidence of new packs to build the most accurate picture possible of what?
3. What did the results of their research show?
4. When were the first wolves released?
5. The challenges are mounting as ranchers and rural residents say the situation for them has become untenable as 2019 marked a record year for what?
6. At least \_\_\_\_\_ wolves were counted during the recent survey. That marks a nearly \_\_\_\_\_% jump in the population from the previous year and puts wildlife managers about half way to meeting the goal that has been set for declaring the species recovered.
7. The cross-fostering technique has been used for a few years now and appears to be paying off. What does this method do?
8. No matter the number of wolves on the landscape, \_\_\_\_\_ say the threat to their livelihood is becoming more dire. They point to the recent spike in the number of cattle kills.
9. Unlike wolf reintroductions in Yellowstone and the northern United States, wildlife managers in the Southwest are faced with a climate that has encouraged a year-round calving season, what does this mean?

10. Last year, \_\_\_\_\_ livestock kills were confirmed across New Mexico and Arizona, and ranchers say some cases went unreported. Wildlife managers acknowledge the problems and are trying to determine what might be behind the spike.
11. There already are a lot of tools in the chest. What are ranchers doing to scare the wolves away from their cattle?
12. Still, McGee said it's been hard overcoming the lore attached to the predators. "There's still a huge misconception about wolves out there," he said. "People think wolves are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ animals."

### **Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay**

#### **Questions:**

- **What are your pre-conceived notions about wolves? Can you remember when you first introduced to these animals?**
- **What do you know about wolves?**
- **Can you see the problem from both the environmentalists and ranchers sides? Is there a viable solution for both parties involved?**
- **What do you think can be done for the animals to co-exist in the same regions?**
- **Should some of the wolves be rehomed in a different area?**

*Audrey McQueen, a single mother of four young children, said her ranch southwest of Reserve, N.M., has been hit hard over the last year as there are three packs that roam the mountainous area that includes her spread. She said her losses due to cattle and calf kills average about \$50,000 annually but it could be more than a year before ranchers see any money from the claims they file with a co-existence council set up to address some of the financial effects of the reintroduction.*

*"We can't even have a normal life," McQueen said. "We work all day, and at night we're driving up and down, shining the light just trying to haze off wolves. Everyone is worn out. Normal stuff is building fence and riding, and we're not even able to do that because all we are is wolf patrol."*

- **How do you see this problem from a rancher's perspective? They are basically on "wolf patrol" every night. They are losing their cattle to the wolves.**
- **What would be your suggestion to help fix this problem?**

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2020 The Seattle Times Company