



# Wolves' Niche Research Project<sup>1</sup>

Elementary: Grade 6

<b>Objectives:</b>	Using computers and other resources to research different breeds of wolves and their niches. The students will also learn how to... <b>I.</b> Download and implement SMUB.IT bookmarking technology. <b>II.</b> Write a report on the wolf they choose. <b>III.</b> Give a report to the class about their breed of wolf. With at least 95% accuracy
<b>Concepts Taught:</b>	Students will use internet (bookmarking informational sites with SMUB.IT) and books to research and write a report on a different breed of wolf and the wolves' different niches.
<b>Standards<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<u>Standard 2: Scientific Thinking</u> - Students use a variety of skills and techniques when attempting to answer questions and solve problems. They describe their observations accurately and clearly, using numbers, words, and sketches, and are able to communicate their thinking to others. They compare, explain, and justify both information and numerical functions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4.2.5: Communication-Write descriptions of investigations, using observations and other evidence as support for explanations.</li><li>• 4.2.6: Critical Response Skills- Support statements with facts found in print and electronic media, identify the sources used, and expect others to do the same.</li></ul>
<b>Procedures:</b>	1. In preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will go to the library and pick out books pertaining to their project.</li><li>• The teacher will provide lessons in class over how a student can do research on their topic.</li><li>• Students will download SMUB.IT toolbar and watch tutorial on how to use it.</li><li>• Find more wolves than students in your class, in case a student cannot find any information on it. (Also, do the research yourself</li></ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted from: <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/>  
<https://wiki.itap.purdue.edu/display/INSITE/Smub.it#Smub.it-Elementary>

<sup>2</sup> Adopted from: <http://www.indianastandards.org/>

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just to find out if there is any information on some wolves.)

2. First day,

- Provide a list of wolves for the students to choose from.
- Students pick three wolves they would want to research and order them 1-3 (one being their most requested, three their least).
- The students number off and teacher writes all their numbers on a piece of paper and put them into a hat. When a student's number is pulled, the student picks their breed of wolf, the day they want to present and the day they want to use the internet.

3. Days or research:

- Students find out the following facts about their wolf: what type of habitat it lives in, what food does it prey on, what if any animal preys on them, how they interact with other animals, and where they live and how many are there.
- Find and SMUB at least one website with a picture showing their habitat.

Before students are able to start, they will provide a little outline of how their paper is going to look and what information they need to find. Then the teacher will check off on their paper if they think it is good or send the student back to their desk if the teacher thinks it needs a little more work. After they receive a check they will start researching on the internet.

The students get five days to research their topic using the library books and the internet. Teacher SMUB a few pages for them to get students started and do a quick mini-lesson on how to use yahoo.com and google.com and SMUB toolbar.

- The students will use this time to find the answers to their questions and pictures to include in their report.

Once they have found all their research, the students will begin their research paper by making a revised outline that has more of the information filled in. They may do this by using a flow map. It is important that they use the five paragraph outline to organize their report. In their outline they needed to write their opening paragraph, topic sentences for each body paragraph, and their closing paragraph. They also needed to include which information they would put under each body paragraph. This is their flow map.

When revised outlines are approved by teacher, they begin to write their draft of the paper.

	<p>4. Papers/ Presentations: Their papers are due when presentations begin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For our presentations, the students must explain their wolf to the class, tell the class all of the questions that have been asked of them to find and show a picture to the class. The students will use their creativity to portray this information to the class. They may use posters, put on a skit, use overheads, show pamphlets, or use any other creative method they wish.</li> </ul>																										
<p><b>Evaluation:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use rubric for grading the research papers and presentations.</li> <li>▪ Observe the students in the daily tasks making sure they stayed on task and were on track with their research.</li> </ul> <p><b>Research Rubric</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Introduce and explain disease</td> <td>15 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Five paragraphs</td> <td>15 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cover Page</td> <td>10 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minimal Errors</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Picture</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Points</b></td> <td><b>50 points</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Presentation Rubric</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Gave a complete overview over the wolf's niche</td> <td>15 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Told three interesting facts</td> <td>15 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kept audience's attention</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Made eye-contact</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spoke clearly</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Showed picture</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total points</b></td> <td><b>50 points</b></td> </tr> </table>	Introduce and explain disease	15 points	Five paragraphs	15 points	Cover Page	10 points	Minimal Errors	5 points	Picture	5 points	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>50 points</b>	Gave a complete overview over the wolf's niche	15 points	Told three interesting facts	15 points	Kept audience's attention	5 points	Made eye-contact	5 points	Spoke clearly	5 points	Showed picture	5 points	<b>Total points</b>	<b>50 points</b>
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