

Learning together

Let Me Tell You About What I Read!

ACTIVITY #8

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES
3RD CYCLE — PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

As explained in the previous strategy, identifying the main ideas of a text helps your child check their understanding and remember the important information. This then makes it easier for them to summarize the text.



Relevance of the activity

Main ideas help your child discuss the text, share their opinion, and appreciate it. They also allow them to summarize the paragraphs in their own words, which helps them better remember the information.



Supplies

■ Text *How Do Wolves Communicate?* (see Appendix)

To carry out this activity, you can also use:

- the text *Wolves and their Diet* (see Appendix);
- a text that matches your child's reading level.



LET'S GO!

What?



Today, I will show your child how to summarize paragraphs to help them understand what they have read.

Why?



You must understand each sentence you read to capture the essence of a text or paragraph. However, remembering all the sentences is impossible! This is why you must learn to pause when reading to determine what is most important to remember in different parts of the text.

When?



After reading a paragraph in **an informative text or a narrative text** you can stop and ask yourself: What did I understand? What is important? If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I tell them?

How?



To summarize a paragraph in your own words, you first need to identify the **most important ideas in the text**, because those are the ones you want to remember.

Once you have found the **main idea**, you can write a **keyword** or a **short group of words in the margin**, next to the paragraph. This should represent the most important idea, the one that **summarizes the whole paragraph**.

Let's look at an example together. Read the paragraph titled: *How Do Wolves Communicate?* (see Appendix).

I read the paragraph, then I paused to ask myself: "What did I understand? What is important?"



As we saw in the previous activity, subheadings and the first sentence of a paragraph often give clues. We can say that the main idea of this paragraph is the ways wolves communicate. In the margin, I write: **ways wolves communicate**.

But if I had to explain this paragraph to a friend or my teacher, would these words be enough? Not really. It is the main idea, but some important information is still missing.

So, I read the paragraph again and ask myself: What are the ways wolves communicate?

I find: howling, facial expressions and body language, and the scents they leave behind. I add these elements in the margin.

Now, I have identified the main idea and the important details. If I had to summarize this paragraph, I could say that wolves communicate through howling, facial expressions, body postures, and the scents they leave behind.

This is more precise than simply saying "ways wolves communicate," and it helps me check that I understood what I read.

You can now practise this strategy using the text Wolves and their Diet in the Appendix, or with a book that matches your child's reading level.

Don't forget!

Ask yourself: If my friend hasn't read this text, what would I tell them to explain it quickly?

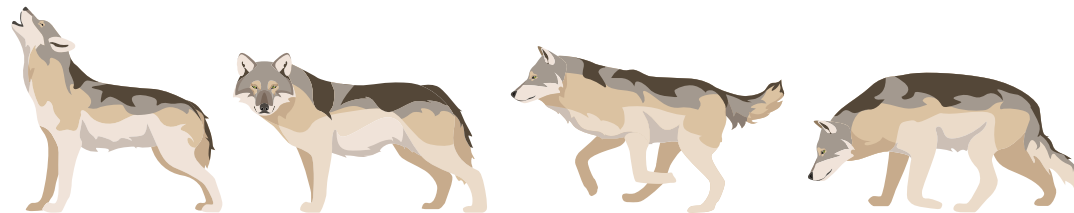


How Do Wolves Communicate?

Main idea

Information related to the main idea

Wolves communicate in a very special and effective way, using body language, vocalizations and even their smell. For example, they howl to gather their group before a hunt or to warn other wolves not to enter their territory. Their howl can carry up to 10 kilometres in an open forest! Wolves also show their emotions through facial expressions and postures. For example, a wolf who keeps his tail high and ears upright feels confident. In addition, they leave scents with their legs or body to communicate with other wolves that pass by the same path. Each wolf can understand a lot about other wolves just by smelling these marks.

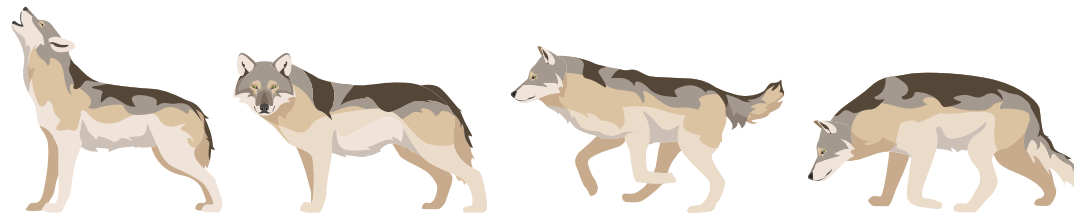


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ANOTHER PARAGRAPH TO PRACTISE WITH:

Wolves and Their Diet**Main idea**

Information related to the main idea

Wolves are mostly carnivorous, which means they eat meat. Their diet consists mostly of large mammals such as deer, elk and bison, but they can also hunt smaller animals such as hares and rodents when larger prey is rare. Wolves hunt in packs to attack animals that are often much larger than them, a strategy that increases their effectiveness in capturing food for the whole group. They can also eat berries and other fruits, if necessary, especially in summer.

