

Culture & History

The Salish and Pend d'Oreille word for wolf is Nčí?cn. There are also specific words for black wolves, nńłane?, and white wolves, łqʷšnó. The Kooentai name for wolf is Ka·kin.

Wolves are considered to be an important part of the circle of life, cleaning up disease, sickness, and death and purifying it in their bodies. Black wolves are considered to be the leaders of wolves and are thought to be gluttonous.

In Kootenai stories, Wolf is an important character. He teaches the importance of family relationships and has great spiritual power.

The Salish and Pend d'Oreille word for coyote is Snčłé and the Kooentai word is Skinkuž. For all three tribes, Coyote is a important figure in many stories.

Salish and Pend d'Oreille Coyote Stories are only told in the winter. Coyote is the main character in their creation stories and modern Salish and Pend d'Oreille still thank Coyote for his lessons.

Similar to Salish and Pend d'Oreille, many of the Kooentai Coyote Stories are lessons, showing listeners how or how not to live their lives. These animal stories are called Coyote Stories because he is the most prominent character.

Reintroduction...

If you are interested in wildlife conservation, you may have heard about the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park. The reintroduction of wolves is considered by many conservationists and scientists to have restored Yellowstone's ecosystem to how it would have functioned pre-colonization.

However, not everyone is thrilled about the return of wolves. After all, an animal that can hunt elk and moose would have little trouble adding livestock and pets to their diet, if given the opportunity. Though wolf attacks are rare, there are still risks for people who live in areas with large wolf populations.

This conflict of interest is an on-going debate in Montana following the reintroduction of wolves in the 1980s. Today, much of this debate is over whether wolf hunting should be allowed and, if so, how many wolves may be removed per year.

Unfortunately, there is not an easy answer to this question and likely any policy is guaranteed to be dissatisfying to one group or the other. Like many other megafauna species, wolf conservation policies will remain a hot topic well into the future.

GREY WOLVES & COYOTES



Nčí?cn - Ka·kin
Snčłé - Skinkuž

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Interesting Facts

Grey wolves, also referred to as timber wolves, are the largest member of the canine family. The largest recorded grey wolf was 175 lbs (79 kgs) in 1939.

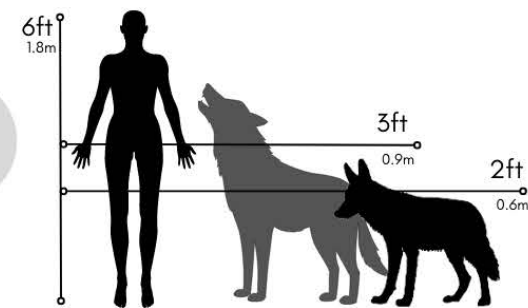
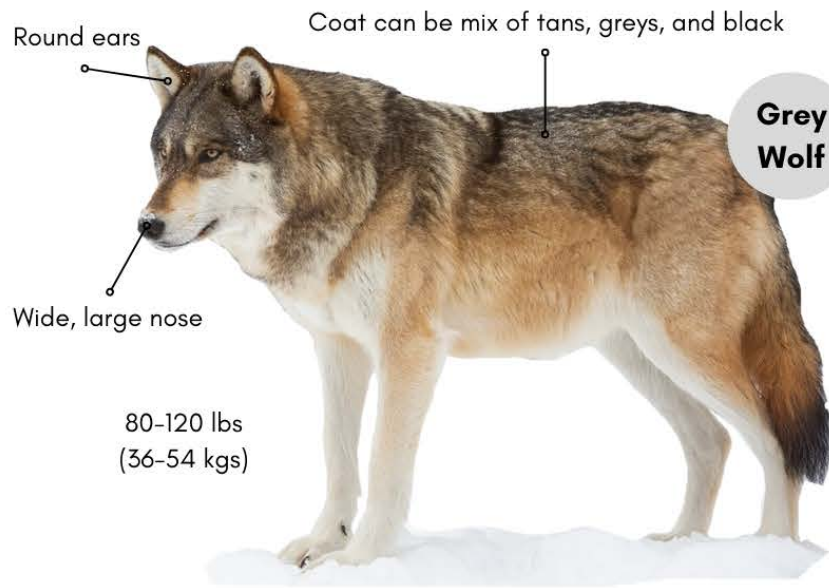
The concept of 'Alpha' dominance fighting in wolf packs is now considered outdated. Current understanding of pack dynamics shows that pack leaders are often family members, such as parents, or are formed through complex social bonds.

Wolves communicate through howling. This is the most efficient way to communicate over long distances and can express a variety of information, including location, prey, and threats.

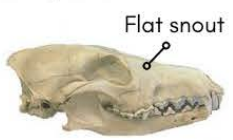
The word 'coyote' can be pronounced differently based on a person's geographic background and family upbringing. The most common pronunciations are 'kai-yo-tee' and 'kai-yote'. Both are considered linguistically correct.

Coyotes often form loose packs, though they hunt solo or in pairs. Occasionally, individuals will leave packs to travel alone or join a new group.

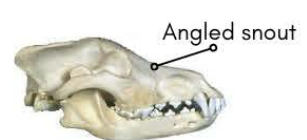
Due to their highly varied diet, coyotes can live successfully in both urban and rural landscapes. In many areas, coyotes are considered a pest species and have been known to attack pets and livestock.



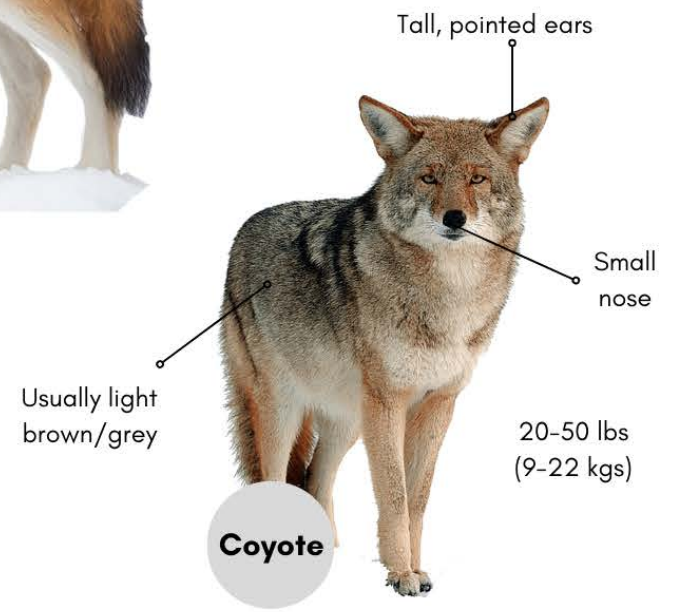
Coyote Skull



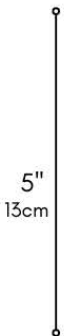
Wolf Skull



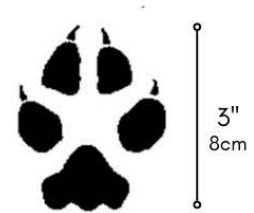
not actual size comparison



Wolf



Coyote



Paw Comparison

**EXPLORE.
DISCOVER.
LEARN.**



Wolves and Coyotes: A Visitor Guide