



## Question and Answer



Q. Is it true that a wolf was found in Indiana?

A. *Yes. Wolves often disperse (move away from their home pack) when they are around two years old. They travel to find a mate and a territory to start their own pack. Last June, a wolf was found in central Indiana that originated from Jackson County in Wisconsin. That's over 400 miles! A gray wolf was even found as far south as Missouri in 2001. This wolf used to live in Michigan!*

Q. How many deer does a wolf eat in a year?

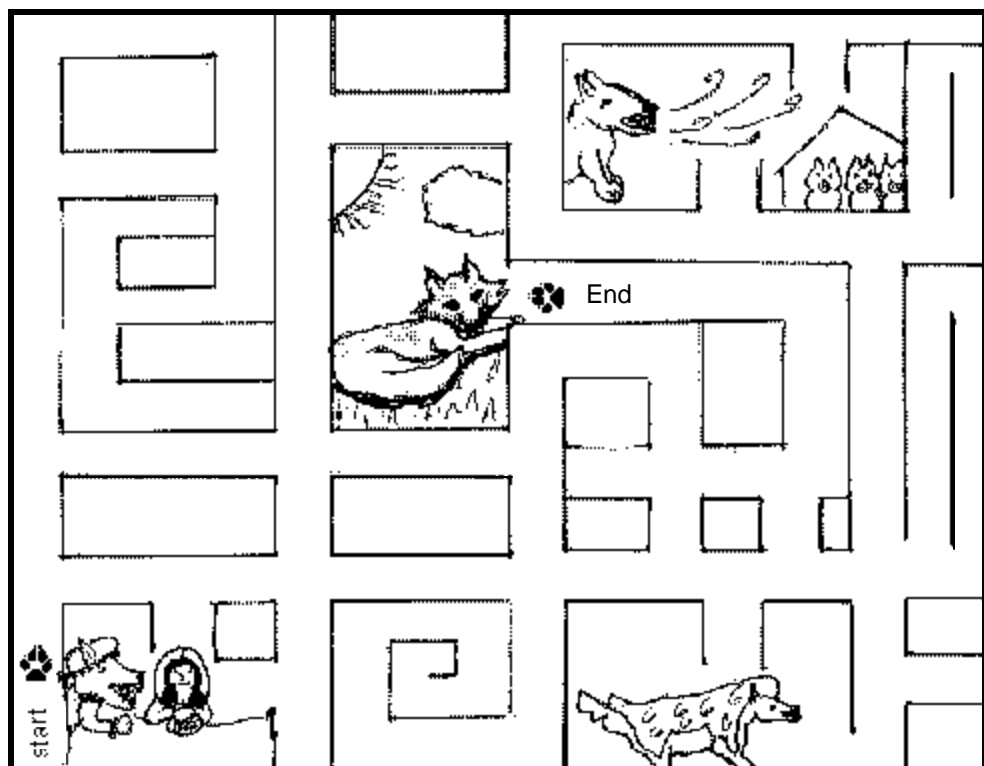
A. *A wild wolf can eat about 18-20 deer a year. When you add up the deer that the approximately 3,000 wolves living in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan eat in a year, it is very small compared to the number of deer hit by cars and taken by hunters. How many deer do you think 3,000 wolves eat?*

## The Wolf: Past and Present

People have always had different attitudes about wolves. Long ago these attitudes were put into folklore, myths, and stories. Can you think of some of these stories? (Hint: one has to do with a little girl in a red cape!) Some of these stories showed wolves as nasty, scary animals. These stories and attitudes were passed down from one generation to another and helped to create the "bad guy" image that the wolf sometimes has.

The early settlers viewed wolves in America so poorly, they and the government killed almost all the wolves in the lower 48 states. It wasn't until 1973, when the Endangered Species Act was passed, that wolves were protected and their population numbers began to grow.

Today people still have lots of different attitudes and opinions about wolves. How do you feel about wolves? How should we manage wolves? These are important questions, and the more you know about wolves, the better decisions you can help make about their future in the United States.



Find your way through this maze of myths and fables to get to the real wolf in the center. Good luck! Answer on page 4.

## A Wolfy Timeline



### Wisconsin

- 1830's** Before white settlers came to Wisconsin there were approximately **3,000- 5,000 wolves**.
- 1865** Government passes a bounty law that pays people \$5 for each wolf they kill.
- 1900** The bounty is raised to \$20 because more people are deer hunting and they think the wolves are eating too many deer. People kill all the wolves in Wisconsin.
- 1957** The wolf bounties are stopped and Wisconsin wolves are protected.
- 1960** There are **no more wolves** in Wisconsin, and they are considered extirpated (all removed).
- 1975** The Wisconsin DNR says that the wolf is endangered and should be protected. Around this time some wolves from Minnesota wander into Wisconsin.
- 1979** There are **29 wolves** in 5 packs living in Wisconsin.
- 1992** There are about **45 wolves**.
- 1999** Wow! **200 wolves** in 54 packs.
- Today** Now **335 wolves** live in Wisconsin! Wolves are doing so well that they are considered state and federally threatened instead of endangered.



### Michigan

- 1838** Michigan places a bounty on wolves.
- 1910** There are **no more wolves** in the lower peninsula of Michigan.
- 1954-56** The last wolf pups in the Upper Peninsula are seen.
- 1959** About **one wolf** is left in the state.
- 1960** There is no longer a wolf bounty in Michigan.
- 1965** Michigan gives wolves state protection.
- 1989** A **pair of wolves** are seen in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- 1992** There are about **21 wolves** in Michigan.
- 1997** **112 wolves** live in 20 packs in Michigan.
- Today** Michigan wolves are doing so well they are listed as threatened instead of endangered. There are about **321 wolves** in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan right now! Yippee!!!



### Minnesota

- 1849** Minnesota places a bounty of \$3 for each wolf killed.
- 1950-52** There are about **450-700 wolves** in northern Minnesota.
- 1964** There is a \$35 bounty on wolves.
- 1965** There is no longer a wolf bounty.
- 1970** There are about **750 wolves** in Minnesota.
- 1978** Minnesota wolves are doing so well they are listed as threatened instead of endangered.
- 1992** There are **1,500-1,750 wolves**.
- Today** There are about **2,450 wolves** in Minnesota. Amazing!!!



### And the future.....

It's up to people like you to decide the future of wolves in the Midwest.

How many stories can you think of that show the wolf as the bad guy? You can probably think of lots, but it's harder to find examples of stories and myths that show the wolf as a good guy. Find a fairytale or fable that shows the wolf as bad news and re-write it so that the wolf is a good character. Here are two examples of re-written stories from students at Washington Middle School in Green Bay, Wisconsin:

## The Truth Behind the Story of Little Red Riding Hood

Story and pictures by Sally Paul, age 13

Hello, my name is Steve. You may not know me, but I'm the cousin of the big bad wolf (let's call him "Jim"). I hear so much about how he supposedly ate that little red-hooded girl's grandmother. Well, today I'm here to clear all this nonsense up and tell you the truth about what went on that day. It started out like any other day for Jim. He went out looking for some food, a deer or small rabbit. He would never have thought of a human; he always thought they had horrible manners. As Jim was searching through the woods, he spotted a rosebush and thought they'd be a wonderful surprise for his mother. Well, as he was picking them, a little girl with a red hood decided she wanted to get some for her sick grandmother. "What a big heart that one has," thought Jim. As they were picking flowers they started up a conversation about how lovely they were.



Now Little Red Riding Hood knew she shouldn't be talking to strangers, but she did anyway. It surprised Jim that she was talking to him, but he didn't mind because he could always use someone to talk to. Well, Little Red got so caught up in the conversation that she forgot the time. She dashed off to her grandmother's house and forgot her flowers. Jim thought he would be nice and bring them to her. He was positive where the grandmother's house was, because she was the only human in the forest, all the others were afraid of wolves. Well, when Jim got there he didn't see Little Red, so he figured he was running so fast he passed her up. He decided to go inside and deliver the flowers to her grandmother personally. When Jim got inside the old lady was sleeping, so he carefully placed them next to her in the bed. The grandmother woke up with a scream. This terrified Jim, he always hated loud noises.



Now, I don't understand where everyone gets this whole idea that he ate the old lady. As I said earlier, Jim would never do that. She ran into a closet to hide and everything inside fell down on top of her. Jim tried to lift her into bed, but he couldn't. So, Jim decided to pretend to be the Grandmother, but only until she woke up. The little girl walked in and noticed differences in the ears, teeth, and nose of her "grandmother," so she questioned them. Jim didn't know what to say, so he made something up: "the better to hear you my dear, the better to smell those cookies my dear." He never said, "the better to eat you with my dear." Instead he said, "the better to eat those cookies you brought my dear." This made Little Red suspicious because her grandmother didn't know she was bringing cookies. She got a little too curious and pulled off the nightcap and saw it was Jim, not her grandmother. She screamed loudly and a nearby hunter ran to find out what it was. When he got there he shot my poor cousin, and found the grandmother in the closet. He decided to make himself seem more heroic by saying he cut Jim open to get the poor grandmother out after Jim had eaten her.

So, by being a friendly neighbor trying to help out, my cousin Jim had to die. And that's why today no wolf will go near a human again. They're too afraid that humans will get greedy, shoot them, and make up some dumb story like "Little Red Riding Hood" or "The Three Little Pigs."

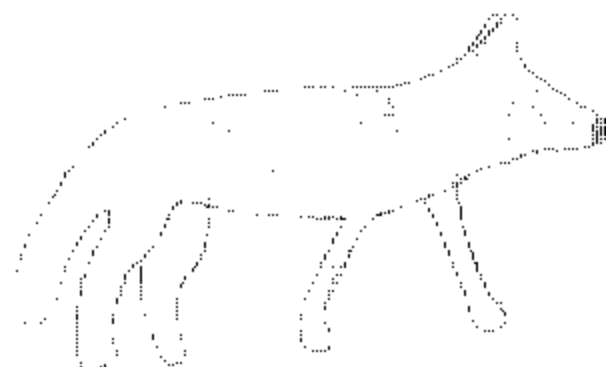
# The Big Benevolent Wolf

by Sean Quigley

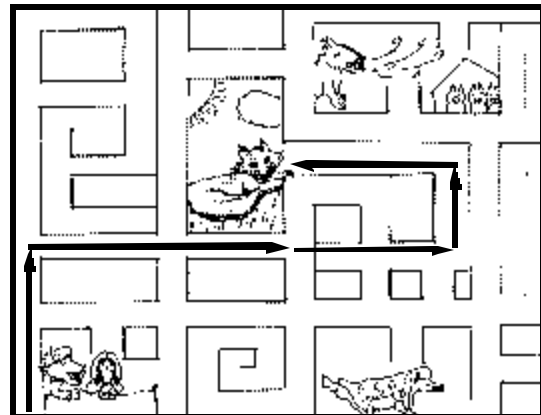
Once upon a time there were three little pigs and a Big Benevolent Wolf (benevolent describes someone who is nice and charitable to others). One day the three pigs were moving out of their mother's home. They met the Big Benevolent Wolf at a construction site. The pigs asked him for suggestions for building their houses. He told the youngest pig to make his house out of straw, because it is much lighter and easier to carry for a little pig. The second oldest pig wanted something even stronger for his house, so he got sticks and set off to build his house. The oldest pig was very strong and felt he should have a strong house, so the wolf bought bricks for his house.

A few weeks later all of the pigs had finished their houses at last. The other pigs knew that the smallest pig's house was much too weak. All of a sudden it got very windy. The smallest pig's house could not stand; it blew over and away. The little pig ran to his older brother's house. The little pig stayed there for a few minutes until the wind picked up even more. Even the stick house could not withstand it, and like the little pig's house, blew over and away. Both the pigs ran to the oldest's house for safety. The winds grew harder and harder, until there was a tornado. The tornado was not enough for the brick house, and it stood firmly in the ferocious winds.

The wolf, feeling bad for the pigs who had just built their houses, brought his whole construction crew to the oldest pigs house. He built two more brick houses next to it. The three pigs and the Big Benevolent Wolf all lived happily ever after.



Wolf by Sally Paul, Washington Middle School



Answer to maze on page 1

### Kids Making a Difference

A group of third graders from Central-Denison Elementary School in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, wanted to raise money to help wolves. Their class had a bake sale and raised \$120.55 that went toward monitoring and researching wolves. Great job!!!

## WANTED!

*Have you written any stories, poetry, or book reports about wolves? Have you drawn or painted pictures of wolves?*

**We would like to include your work in Paw Prints.**

**Please send your original work to:**

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