

Module 13
Blakeslee's *American Wolf*
Worksheet
(Chs 1-6)

1. Record and respond to a quote that resonates with you from Chs 1-6.

Prologue: (Choose One)

1. What triggered the conflict between wolves and ranchers/hunters?
2. Is the assumption of wolf predation justified? Why? Why not? What other factors may have contributed to the decline of this prey species?
3. Were the wolves victimized by an old prejudice/stereotype? Describe this prejudicial stereotype?
4. What was ethical about Turnbull's hunting style? Unethical?

Chapter One: (Choose One)

1. Cite two examples of Blakeslee's style as a Nature writer.
2. Describe Rick McIntire's role re: the wolves of Lamar Valley?
3. Cite several behaviors of the wolves that are described?
4. Describe several pertinent facts re: the wolf "0-6."
5. Record some historical facts re: the wolves of this region
6. How did the wolves "mold" the environment?
7. What was the logic for re-introducing the wolf into this area?
8. Describe the roles of Doug Smith relative to the wolves.

9. What was the mission of the Yellowstone Wolf Project?
10. What factors contributed to wolf mortality?
11. Cite examples of the standard equipment and tactics used by those monitoring/studying the wolves of Lamar?
12. Cite a fact re: the wolf numbers at re-introduction in '95 and eight years later, in 2003.
13. What practices evidences Rick's credibility as a naturalist? In whose naturalist tradition was his following?
14. What was the name of the dominant pack in Lamar Valley? Why do you suppose the biologists chose this name? What was the size of the pack, and what was unique about this?

Chapter Two: (Choose One

1. What else do we learn about O6?
2. Cite evidence of the rivalry between packs?
3. What brought the Lamar wolves into contact with hunters?
4. What was significant about the fate of the alpha male 38?
5. Describe some of the interesting dynamics in the struggle for pack leadership among the alpha wolves, and between them and the "subordinates."?
6. Cite a fact re: the mortality rate of wolf pups.
7. What was significant and/or unique about the hunts of the Lamar Wolves?
8. Describe some of the tensions between wildlife management and tourism re: the Lamar wolves?
9. How might the wolves benefit from wolf tourism? Cite a fact re: the annual number of wolf tourists to Lamar Valley.

10. What celebrities contributed to the reintroduction effort? How?
11. What things did the student volunteers include in their annual winter study of the wolves?
12. Cite a fact re: the wolf's daily range, and a wolf practice for reinforcing the boundaries of it? What seasonal variations affected the wolves travel through their range?
13. . Why was Lamar Valley chosen as one of the sites for wolf re-introduction?
14. What aspect of wolf nature did Rick McIntire come to love the most? Why did this trait have positive survival value, to put it in Darwinian terms?
15. What physical traits evolved in the wolf as a result of "natural selection"? What other traits had O6 inherited from her forebears, and from her father, the alpha male "21," in particular.
16. What was noteworthy about the fate of "21"'s son, "Limpy"?
17. What was significant about the fate of 21's mate, the alpha female 42?
18. What was significant about the death of 21?

Chapter Three (Choose One):

19. What did those studying the wolves learn about their behavior? Make a short list.
20. What were some of the practices used to study the wolves?
21. What was the nature of the conflicts between the various "stake-holders": wildlife biologists, ranchers, hunters, politicians, state and federal agencies?
22. List some of the exploits that set O6 above other wolves, and other alphas in particular?
23. Describe the nature of Laurie Lyman and Doug McIntire's involvement with the wolves?
24. To what other famous wildlife habitat is the Lamar Valley compared?
25. What caused the sharp decline in the wolf population from 170 to 100?

Chapter Four: (Choose One)

26. What three words described the attitude of ranchers and hunters toward the wolves? (p75)
27. What prompted the “Outfitters” to label Yellowstone “the iron curtain?”
28. What factors were behind the resistance and resentment of the local hunters of Crandall?
29. How did the practices of the cattle ranchers also negatively impact the elk hunting?
30. What new policy was adopted to solve this conflict?

Chapter Five (Do 43 & 44, and choose one other)

31. Cite an example of O6’s prowess as the alpha female.
32. Why was the pack reluctant to kill prey close to the den?
33. What was strategic about the location of the den?
34. What were some characteristics of the wolf “howl” observed by the “watchers?”
35. What writer influenced Rick McIntire to devote his life to the national Park Service?
36. What other Naturalist/Writer influenced his career—and particularly his story of wolves?
37. How many wolves originally inhabited the continent at the time of the Pilgrim’s arrival at Plymouth Rock?
38. Describe some of the practices associated with the poisoning of wolves?
39. What does Alaskan nature writer Barry Lopez (Of Wolves and Men) cite as the underlying cause of the impulse to exterminate wolves? What might be responsible for this widespread attitude in mountain states? What stereotype of the wolf reinforced this attitude?
40. Extra Reading: Leopold’s “Green Fire” in *Sand County Almanac*; Mowat’s *Never Cry Wolf*, and Seton’s *Lobo: King of the Currumpaw*.
41. Are hunters-ranchers justified to shoot wolves that leave a National Park?

42. Why did the Lamar wolves annually leave Yellowstone Park?
43. Are there other possible solutions to this killing of the wolves?
44. Should wolves have been removed from the Endangered species list? What was the rationale for doing so?
45. Which was the first wolf killed once they were removed from the Endangered Species list, and lost Federal protections outside the park?
46. How many wolves were killed in Idaho and Montana by the end of the first hunting season after the wolf's "delisting?"

47. What further evidence does 06 give of her prowess as an alpha female?

Chapter Six (choose one)

48. Which environmental group filed suit to reverse the "delisting" of the wolves?
49. What were some of the group's successes?
50. What other eco groups were part of the coalition defending the wolves?
51. Inside the courtroom, which side had the most supporters?
52. Which government agencies representing the states of Idaho and Montana were opposing them?
53. What was the logic used by wolf advocate, Ed Bangs, justifying the restoration of Endangered Species status for the wolf?
54. Who did those representing the states of Idaho and Montana want to have jurisdiction over the wolves and wolf-policy: Federal or State authorities? Why?
55. What were some of the sticking points, critical cruxes in the debate between the two sides? What criteria were the states obliged to meet before the wolves were removed from the Endangered Species list?
56. With 1700 wolves in the tri-state area, what were the implications of setting the minimal population for recovery at 150 wolves? Was this number determined by science? If not, what factors determined this number?

57. What logic was used by Earth Justice lawyer in advocating a higher minimum number of wolves?
58. Why did emotions ran so high on both sides of the debate?
59. What researched-based fact supported the position that no wolf hunting season was not required because the wolf population was controlled by other factors without human intervention.
60. By 2010 how many wolves had been shot?