

K-2



# Discover Red Wolves

## Chaperone-Led Field Investigation



Dear Chaperone,

Please guide your students through the following observations. As you ask them the following questions allow them to think about their answers and encourage them to come up with questions of their own. The purpose of this activity is not for them to get all the “right” answers but rather to allow them to practice questioning and observation skills.

### **Find a red wolf to watch. What is it doing?**

*Our red wolves can be difficult to see. They will often be resting during the middle of the day. If they are being active they might be exploring their enclosure, smelling for interesting smells or looking for anything that might be moving that they can chase. They might also be socializing or even howling. Wolves howl to communicate with other members of their pack or even other packs.*

### **What color are they? How do you think the color of their fur helps them to live in the forest?**

*Red wolves have reddish brown fur. Their color helps them to blend into the trees and ground. They are very shy and would rather hide quietly and safely in the forest rather than go anywhere near a person. Our wolves at the Zoo have grown up near people so they aren't as afraid, but they don't like to be petted like a dog or a cat.*

### **How are red wolves like you? How are they different?**

*Students should notice size differences, how they walk (on all fours); fur all over their bodies, long face and big black nose and of course a tail. Similarities include having two eyes, two ears and a mouth. Some students may even know that wolves and people are both mammals (have hair or fur, warm blood, a backbone, and they nurse their babies).*

### **Find the three skulls. Look at the teeth. How are they different from your teeth?**

*Coyotes, red wolves and gray wolves all have pointed teeth so they don't chew their food, they tear off pieces of meat and swallow them whole. Our molars (back teeth) are flat so we can chew our food.*

### **There aren't very many red wolves left in the world (only about 100). What can we do to help them?**

*We can care about them and learn about them! When you get older you can help to make sure that they have enough forest to live in, enough food to eat and enough clean water to drink.*

### **What do you like about red wolves?**

*This question is meant to encourage students to feel a positive and personal connection with the wolves.*

Conserve

Care

Connect

Discover