

3-5



Red Wolf Discovery Field Investigation Log



Look carefully at the Red Wolf habitat. Draw a simple sketch of what you see. Label each feature that you notice.

Describe how you think the wolves' basic needs are met in their exhibit.

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Space

If you can see the wolves, what are they doing? How would this behavior help a wolf to survive in the wild?

There are only about 100 red wolves left in the wild. Why do you think there are so few?

Make a list of at least 2 other predators that you saw at the zoo today. Name some of the similarities and differences that you notice about these predators and red wolves.

Conserve

Care

Connect

Discover

Red Wolf Discovery

Teacher/Chaperone Field Investigation Guide



Look carefully at the Red Wolf habitat. Draw a simple sketch of what you see. Label each feature that you notice.

This purpose of this activity is to provide students with an opportunity for observation and to practice diagramming skills, including labeling. Encourage them to be as detailed as possible.

Describe how you think the wolves' basic needs are met in their exhibit.

The purpose of this question is simply to get students thinking about the care required to keep wolves in a zoo.

- **Food** *What do you think they are fed and how are they fed?*
- **Water** *How do they get water?*
- **Shelter** *What do red wolves need shelter from? Where would they find shelter in the wild?*
- **Space** *Do you think that wolves need as much space at the zoo as they would in the wild? Our wolves don't need to hunt so they don't need as much space.*

If you can see the wolves, what are they doing? How would this behavior help a wolf to survive in the wild?

If they are sleeping or resting students may describe this behavior in human terms (i.e. lazy, sad, depressed, etc.). Inactivity in the natural world usually just means that the animal is conserving energy so that they can do what they need to do to survive (i.e. find food, avoid predators, socialize, etc.)

Red wolves are very shy and will often try to make themselves disappear into their surroundings. However, they will also walk around their exhibit, using their senses to be on alert for potential danger or interesting sights, sounds and smells.

There are only about 100 red wolves left in the wild. Why do you think there are so few?

The number one reason that red wolves are endangered is because there isn't very much of their habitat left. In other words, they don't have enough safe space to hunt for food, or find water and shelter. Red wolves were also hunted because they were believed to be dangerous to people and livestock. However, red wolves are very shy and rarely aggressive unless they feel threatened.

Make a list of at least 2 other predators that you saw at the zoo today. Name some of the similarities and differences that you notice about these predators and red wolves.

Students should notice body size (larger than most prey animals), long muzzle or claws for grabbing prey, large nose and/or ears for locating prey. Students may also have knowledge of social behavior such as hunting as a pack, which allows them to capture larger prey such as deer.

Predators help to control the populations of the animals they prey upon. Without key predators these populations would expand greatly in numbers, affecting other pieces of the ecosystem such as food, water, shelter, and space resources. Polar bears and Sumatran tigers are the other key predators on exhibit at the zoo.