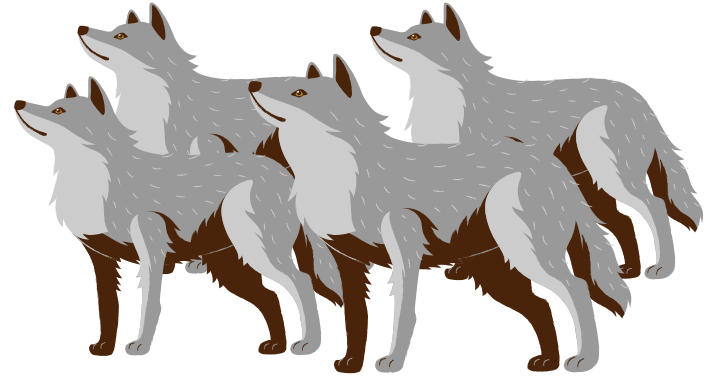




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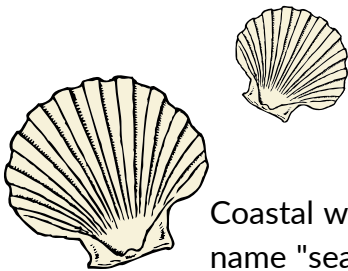
Get to know

Coastal Wolves



Wolf's Home

Coastal wolves can only be found west of the Coast Mountain Range and in southwestern Alaska. This home area includes the Great Bear Rainforest, Vancouver Island, and many other islands and archipelagos in the Salish Sea and along the coast of B.C.



Wolf's Favorite Foods



Coastal wolves are different from their inland cousins. They have earned the special name "sea wolves" because the ocean is their grocery store. Up to 85% of their diet is marine-based! They can use their paws to dig in the sand for shellfish, like clams, and use their powerful jaws to crack open the shells of mussels. They can also scavenge for herring eggs, and feast on seals, otters, and washed-up whale carcasses. But their favourite food is **SALMON!** During salmon season, coastal wolves will track and fish for salmon, eating the fish heads.



Some of Wolf's Gifts

Coastal wolves have so many gifts to share! One of them is their gift for collaboration and cooperation. Coastal wolves live and hunt in groups called a pack. A pack can have anywhere between 2-20 wolves. Whether, they are hunting, swimming, tracking, or scavenging for food, they always work together. Coastal wolves are also incredible communicators. Like other wolves, coastal wolves will use a big howling voice that can be heard from close to 10 km away! They might do this to gather their pack, to announce a hunt, or set a territorial boundary. These gifts make this being a wonderful teacher, sharing knowledge on how we can use our unique abilities to communicate and to collaborate towards the shared goal of providing for our community.

Connecting forest and ocean communities

Coastal wolves are very important community members in coastal forests. Their place in the interconnected food web means that they play a key role in maintaining balance in the forest and along coastal waters. This includes helping feed these communities by recycling and spreading nutrients!

As resourceful scavengers of the shoreline, sea wolves help keep coastal communities clean and healthy, while also recycling any of the leftovers they can find on the beach, whether it's a whale or a seal body.

During salmon season, they go fishing for salmon and eat the heads, leaving behind leftover carcasses. In doing so, they share important marine nutrients with scavenging insects, small mammals, nearby plants, and the entire forest floor. The nearby trees in the forest are fed by these nutrients, helping them grow big and tall. In turn, the big and tall trees offer shade which regulates water temperatures of the forest streams. These cool streams are important nurseries for the next generations of salmon.



This next section includes website links for deeper learning. To explore these stories, please visit sierraclub.bc.ca/wolf-worksheet

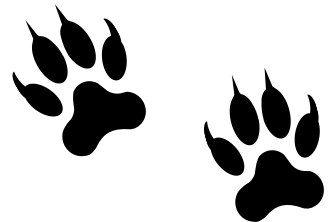
Learning from local Cultural Voices

"For Huu-ay-aht First Nations, the wolf represents the spirit of unity, loyalty, and family. It is a spirit guide, a leader of ceremonies and events."

We invite you to [listen to Wišqii's Story](#) and to learn more about wolf from a Nuu-chah-nulth lens.

The gifts of a story

[Sea Wolf and the Stz'uminus Mustimuhw](#)



Shared by Edward Seymour Sr. and translated by the late Pearl Harris, late Theresa Rice, Diana Sampson, Dean Harris, Buffi David, Delores Elliott, Manny Sampson and Mona Sampson. From Stz'uminus First Nation.



Artwork by scientific illustrator Dr. Julius Csotonyi

Discussion questions & thoughts to consider

- We are all connected.
- What happens to coastal wolves, happens to us.
- When something goes missing, who is going to take its place?
- How could you be a voice for coastal wolves?
- Every being in coastal wolf's connected community matters.
- What is your responsibility?
- How could you use your gifts to be a respectful neighbour to coastal wolves?

Writing activity

Write down any thoughts that bloom
from the discussion questions

Art activity

Draw your own story of Wolf and their interconnected communities

Keep learning with us!

We wanted to express our sincere gratitude to all of the hands, minds and hearts whose publicly shared knowledge, teachings and contributions were a part of this learning resource.

To explore our resource list and additional learning materials, we invite you to visit sierraclub.bc.ca/wolf-worksheet

