

# For Creative Minds

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## Fact or Myth?

Use what you learned reading the book to determine whether the statement is a fact (true) or a myth (false).

1

Wolves howl at the moon because of mystical forces.



2

Coyotes, foxes and wolves live in dens all year long.



3

Wolves are social creatures and depend on their pack to survive.



4

Foxes have a scent gland on their tail called the violet gland.



5

Wolves are not nocturnal, but they are crepuscular.



Answers: 1:Myth, 2:Myth, 3:Fact, 4:Fact, 5:Fact

## Canine Communication

Coyotes, foxes, and wolves all communicate in three major ways: vocalization, scent marking, and body language. Body language includes facial expressions, body postures, and tail positions.

What do you think these animals are trying to say or communicate?



## Not Pets! Identify the Canine

Wild animals, including wild canines, do not make good pets.

Wolfdogs are an animal that has a recent ancestor (like a parent or grandparent) who is a wolf, and a recent ancestor who is a dog. Because they have recent wolf ancestry, their instincts and behaviors do not make them good pets.

Can you correctly identify the canines?

coyote

domestic dog

fox

wolf

wolfdog



Answers: 1:wolfdog, 2: coyote, 3:fox (Arctic), 4: domestic dog (malamute), 5: wolf

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## Coexist with Wildlife

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As more houses are built and land is developed, wild animals don't have as many places to live, find food, and raise their young. While it might be exciting to see wild canines, they don't really want to be near humans.

In general, one way to prevent wild canines, bears, raccoons, and other wildlife from coming too close to where you live is to not leave pet food outside. It's also important to keep garbage in closed, sealed containers. Never feed wild animals. Not only is human food not good for them, but it may encourage them to stop looking for their own food.

Foxes are probably the most commonly seen wild canine wandering through backyards. They might even make a den in your backyard or under a porch! If so, leave them alone. After the pups are born and out of the den, the foxes will leave.

Wolves have had a bad reputation as a villain for centuries. But they are important to the ecosystem. They tend to be shy and avoid human populations. Wolves prefer to keep to the forests to prey on wild game. However, if their habitat is reduced, they may drift into areas where livestock are held. One way to prevent them from coming in contact with livestock is to tie a rope along the top of a fence and put red ribbons or flags on it. The flapping scares the wolves away.

Coyotes are much more likely to live closer to human populations than wolves. They prefer to avoid coming into contact with people as long as food is not left out.

