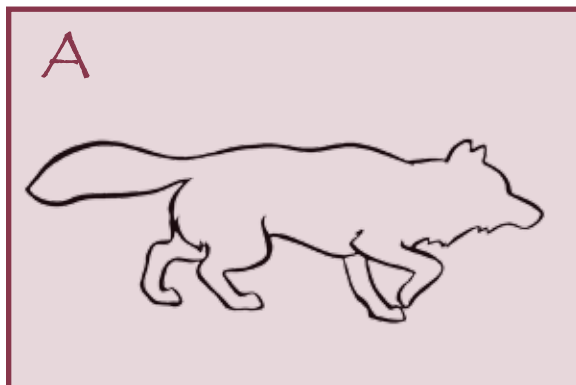


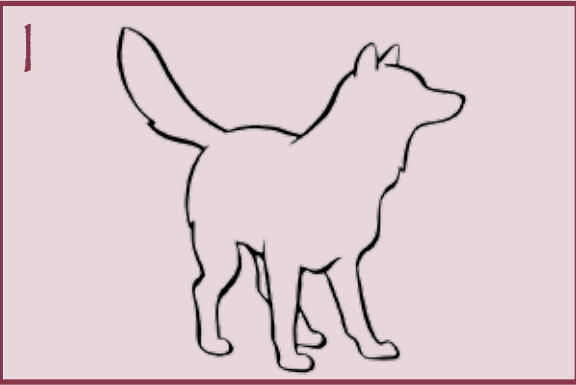
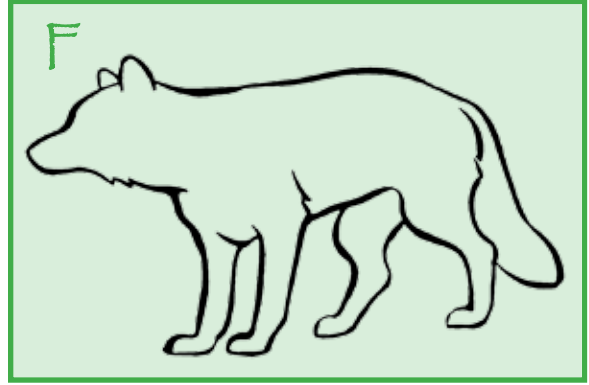
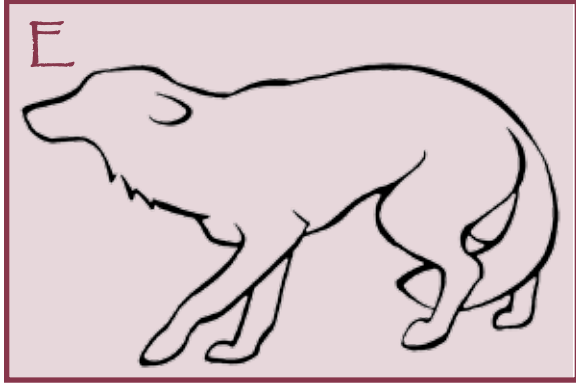
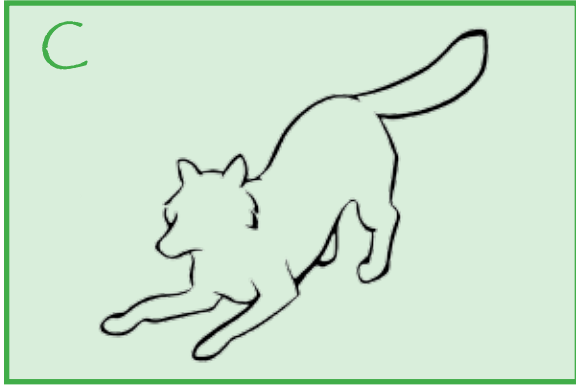
For Creative Minds

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Match the communication description to the sketch showing the communication method. Answers are sideways on the next page. *Have you ever seen a dog use any of these communication methods?*

1. Wolves howl to:
 - Let others know where they are
 - Let others know that a hunt is about to start
 - Gather at the end of the hunt
 - Mark their territory for other wolves
 - Express fear
 - And, last but not least, because they like to
2. Alpha wolves will look other wolves directly in the eyes as a sign of dominance. Submissive wolves will not make eye contact.
3. Crouching down, slinking, or being on its back shows a wolf's submission.
4. The front bowed down and the back end up with a wagging tail is an invitation to play.
5. Dominant wolves hold their tails high—almost as though they are pointing at the sky.
6. Tails pointed down or between their legs show fear or submission.
7. Tails pointed straight out show interest or an attack.
8. Ears flat against the head show fear or submission.
9. Ears that are up show dominance, or that a wolf is listening or paying attention to something.
10. Ears pointed straight up and bared teeth show anger.





Answers: 1.H; 2.B; 3.F; 4.C; 5.I; 6.E; 7.A; 8.J; 9.G; 10.D



Wolf Fun Facts

Wolves are related to dogs — they are both canines. You might think of them as being distant cousins. Just like there are different types of dogs (poodles, labs, etc.), there are two main types of wolves: gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) and red wolves (*Canis rufus*). Some scientists are debating whether a third type, the Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*), is a wolf or a jackal.



Wolves live in groups called packs. Each pack has an alpha, or leader, male and female. The size of a pack can range from just two to some Canadian or Alaskan packs having over 30 wolves! Most packs have between five and eight wolves. Larger packs have several females with pups.

Packs are territorial and will guard their territory against other wolves. The size of the territory depends on the season, the pack size and how much food is available. More food means smaller territory and less food means a larger territory. *Why do you think this is?*



Wolf Life Cycle

- Wolves are born in the spring, usually around April or May, when food is plentiful.
- A pair of gray wolves usually has an average of 6-7 pups, while red wolves have 3-5 pups.
- Pups weigh about 1 lb. (0.45 kg) when they are born.
- Like us, wolves are mammals. The pups drink their mother's milk for the first five weeks.
- For the next two weeks, they eat regurgitated food that other members of the pack bring back to them. Then they are able to eat solid food.
- The pups stay in the den until they are about eight weeks old.
- At seven or eight months, pups are almost full grown and start traveling with the pack.
- A fully grown wolf may leave its pack at age one or two to find a mate and start another pack.
- A female wolf starts having babies when she is about two years old.
- Adult gray wolves generally live 10 or 12 years. Red wolves generally live eight or nine years.



Wolf Calendar Activity



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Assuming that the wolf pups were born on April 15, use the calendars and the information on the previous page to answer the questions. Answers are upside down below.

1. On what day of the week were the wolf pups born?



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2. Around what date did the pups eat their first regurgitated food?

3. If they ate their first solid food two weeks later, what would be the date?

4. If they left the den when they were eight weeks old, what would the date be?



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Looking at the illustrations, can you identify the seasons?

Answers: 1. Monday; 2. Around May 20th; 3. Around June 3rd; 4. Around June 10th