

Wolf Depredation Dilemma



Age: High School

Objective: Students will be able to....

- Articulate the difference between the meaning of Dilemma and Depredation.
- Reflect on differencing opinions and concerns revolving around wolves.
- Explain the need for cooperation of different groups to find compromise solutions to joint problems.

Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-10.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
- WI Social Studies: C.12.10 Identify ways people may participate effectively in community affairs and the political process

1. Introduction

Take some time to learn about the Very Very Basics of Wolf Ecology Focusing on Diet and management. Or invite TWA into your classroom to give a talk!

- a. What they eat, How Much they Eat, How Often They Eat, Etc....
- b. Define Depredation and Dilemma. then Ask for and/or Provide Examples (Both Wolf and Non Wolf)
 - i. Depredation- an act of attacking (example: wolf killing cattle)
 - ii. Dilemma- a difficult situations or problem (example: how do you take care of wolves who are killing cattle?)
- c. Describe Methods of Dealing With Depredation, and Ask for opinion concerning how well this works. Examples include:
 - i. Lethal Control (by state or landowners) of pack or individual wolf
 - ii. Relocation
 - iii. State reimburse owners of depredated animals.

2. Read Depredation Scenario to Student Group

Depredation Dilemma Scenario:

Rancher Robert lives among the foothills of the front range of the Rocky Mountains. He has a large herd of cows. The cows routinely graze up into the lush mountain meadows during the summer months of the year. These mountainous areas are public lands which are open to grazing animals. While in the mountains, Rancher Robert's animals are mostly allowed to freely range, and he only checks up on them a few times per week. During this most recent summer, Robert has lost several young calves to predators in the mountains. Hearing that a new wolf pack has moved into the area, Robert has federal officers confirm that indeed it was wolves that killed his animals. Robert isn't formally against having wolves in the area of his ranch, but he does fear that depredation on his herd may increase. Robert feels that there isn't too much he can do about depredation of his herd during the summer months that his cattle are on public lands, but he does plan to shoot any wolves that he sees on his property regardless of their status as an endangered species. Other local ranchers feel that Rancher Robert is actually being too lenient towards the wolves, while environmentalists in the area feel that Rancher Robert's wolf views are much too harsh and out of line. As wolf numbers are sure to increase in the front range area, the scenario is set for a clash of ideas between all groups involved.

3. Students to Divide into 4 Groups: Landowners (farmers), Hunters, Environmentalists, Game Managers
4. Have Groups Discuss Wolf Depredation Scenario Concerning a Cattle Ranch Including Their Response to Each Question Based on the type of Group they are. Have them record their group's responses on the worksheet.
 - a. What is Your Primary Concern in This Case?
 - b. What is Your Best Solution (support your argument)?
 - c. What is the Worst Possible Solution (support your argument)?
5. Each Group Present Their Answers to Each Question, and General Philosophy of the Group They Represent. Have students record views from other groups for next activity.
6. Regroup Students so that each Group has One representative from each perspective.
 - a. Have Each Group Formulate a Workable Compromise Concerning a Strategy for Dealing With the Depredation Dilemma Present
 - b. Each Group Should Share with the Class Their Solution.
7. Conclusion
General Class Discussion if Time.
 - How was your group able to come to a compromise?
 - How does compromise among similar individuals happen outside the the classroom?
 - What happens if compromise doesn't work?
8. Students to Right a Short Essay With the Following Components:
 - a. Summarize the Basic View Points of All Sides of the Argument.
 - b. State Your Personal Opinion Concerning the Best Way to Deal With Wolf Depredation and Support Your Decision.
 - c. Answer: How do You or Could You Use What You Know and Feel About Wolves to Influence Others to do the Right Thing, Specifically Developing Wolf Management Plans/Techniques that are Able to Satisfy Most Members of Society?

DILEMIA PRESPECTIVES



Name: _____

Date: _____

In your assigned group, determine what your biggest concern over this dilemma is, what the best and worst solutions would be to address the concern.

Landowners

Concern:

Best Solution

Worst Solution

Hunters

Concern:

Best Solution

Worst Solution

Name: _____

Date: _____

Environmentalists

Concern:

Best Solution

Worst Solution

Game Managers

Concern:

Best Solution

Worst Solution