

# Taking Care of the Kids

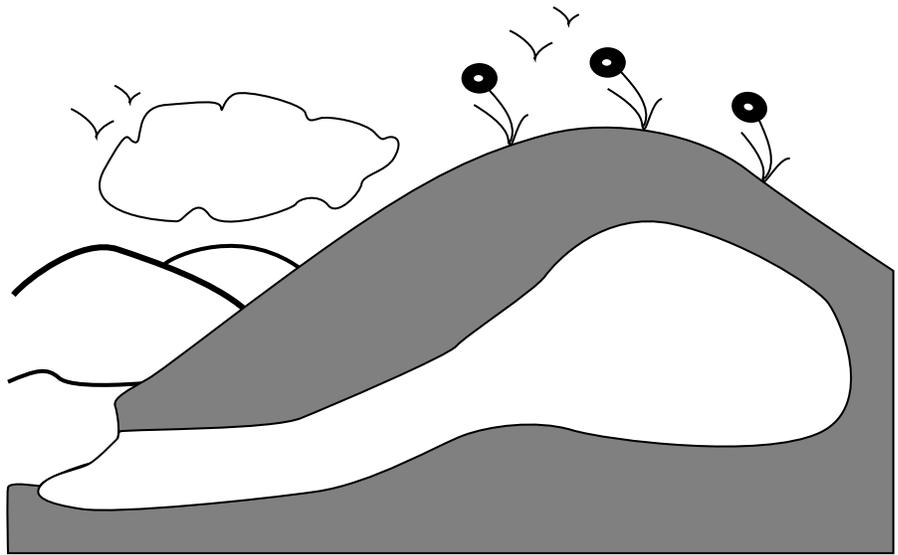
The pups born at the same time are called a litter. Can you draw some wolf pups in this den? How many pups are there in this litter?

## Think about it!

Why is the den higher than the tunnel or passageway?

Wolves are good parents. They take care of their babies by feeding them and keeping them warm and dry. Most mother wolves have four to five pups. The pups are born in a den in the spring. Sometimes the mother wolf digs a den. Sometimes the den is a hollow under a fallen tree. Wolf pups are tiny when they are born. They weigh about a pound. Their eyes are closed, and they cannot walk. Their ears are small and flat against their heads. Mother wolf keeps the pups warm and feeds them milk from her body. Father wolf brings the mother wolf food.

When the pups are two weeks old, they open their eyes and start to walk. When they are three weeks old, they begin to play around the opening of the den. The adult wolves bring the pups meat which they carry in their stomachs. The pups lick the mouths of the big wolves. This makes the adults bring the food up so the pups can eat it. Wolf pups begin to practice howling. Howling takes practice!



## Some Things To Talk About

- Wolf pups cannot see or hear when they are born. Can human babies see and hear when they are born? \_\_\_\_\_ How much did you weigh when you were born? \_\_\_\_\_ pounds
- How old were you when...?
  1. You began to eat solid food? \_\_\_\_\_ What was your first solid food? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. You started to crawl? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. You started to walk? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. You started to talk? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why do wolf parents carry food in their stomachs to the pups instead of carrying it in their mouths? \_\_\_\_\_  
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