

Lesson Plan

Dispersal Discussions

Book: *Wolf Migration*

Series: Animal Migrations

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice summarizing a conversation by writing a short paragraph.

Supplies

- *Wolf Migration* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read *Wolf Migration* as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Wolves spend more than one-third of their time traveling. Some wolves leave the pack. This is called dispersal. When wolves disperse, they are looking for a mate or a new pack. Until they find what they are looking for, they travel by themselves. Some wolves travel alone for hundreds of miles.

Divide the students into pairs. Then, write the following questions on the whiteboard:

- What would you be looking for if you had to travel alone?
- Where would you go?
- How long are you willing to travel for what you're looking for?
- How would being alone for that long make you feel?

In their pairs, students should take turns answering the questions. Give students several minutes to talk. Then ask each student to write a summary of what his or her partner talked about. This summary should answer the four questions listed below. Write these questions on the whiteboard:

- What would your partner look for?
- Where would your partner go to find what they're looking for?
- How long would your partner travel to find what they're looking for?
- How would being alone make your partner feel?

Evaluation

Collect the summaries and give students 1 point for each question they answered, for up to 4 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grade 4 (SL 4.1), and writing standards, grade 4 (W 4.8).