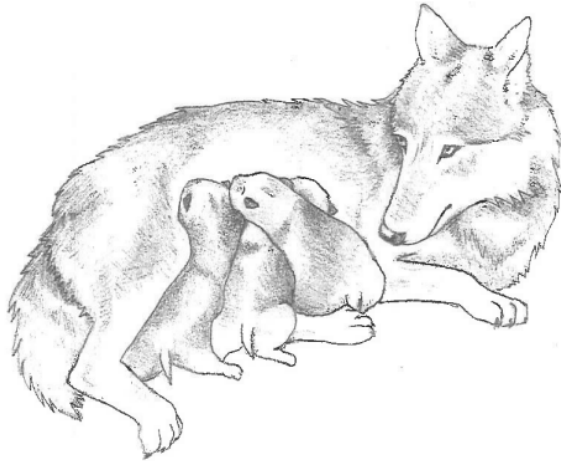


Life Cycle of the Wolf

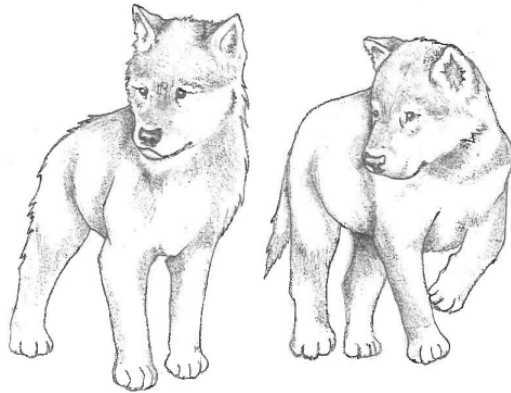
1. Wolf pups grow in their mom's belly for about two months before they are born. When they are born, they are very small and need to huddle close to their mom and siblings to stay warm. They are also born blind and deaf, and need to drink milk four to five times a day.



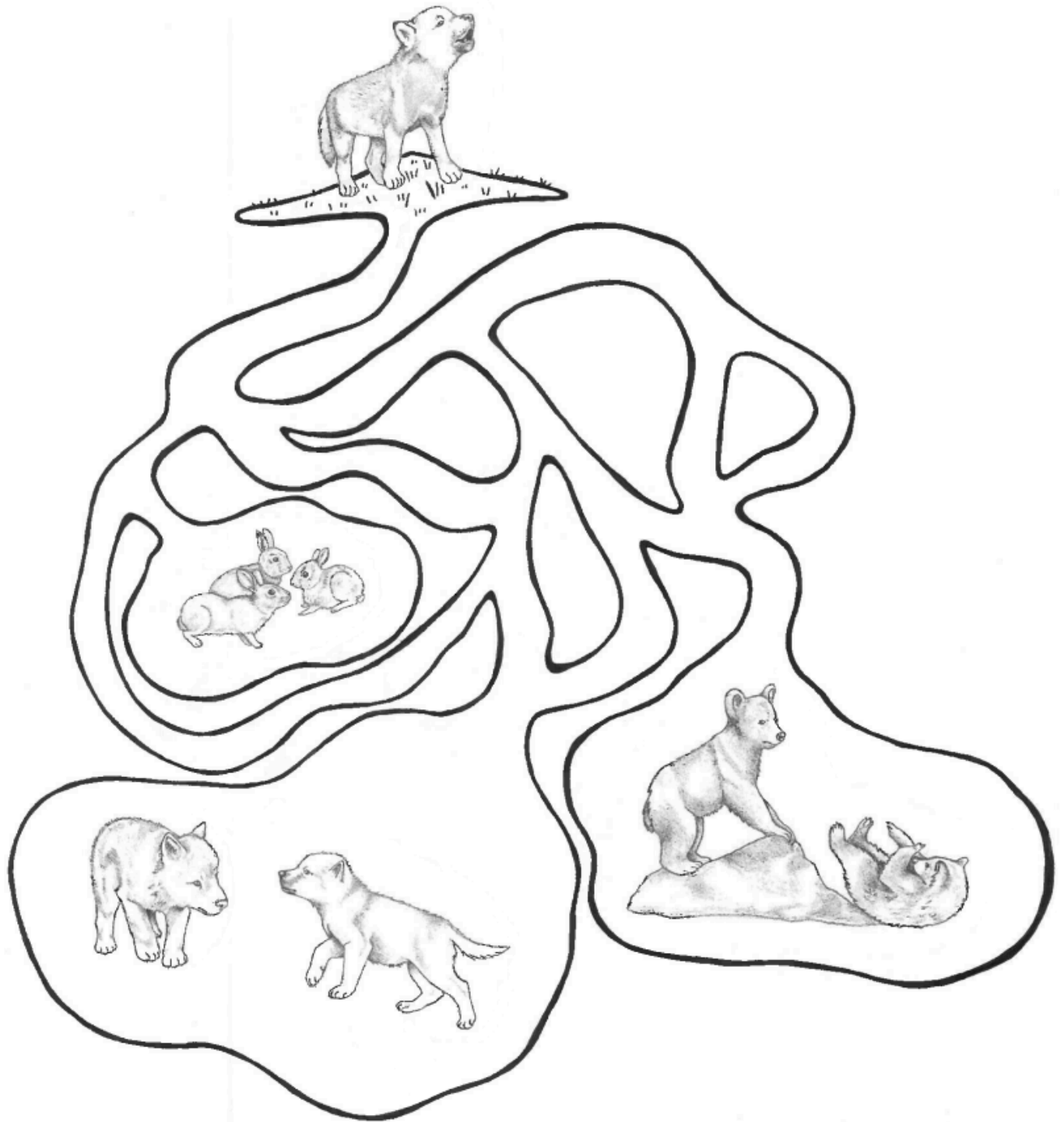
2. Their eyes begin to open at about two weeks old, but they won't be able to see very well for a few weeks yet. When their eyes first open, they are blue, but they will change color to yellow or brown as they age. Their first set of teeth, which are called "**milk teeth**," also come in at two weeks old. This allows them to start eating small amounts of meat, but they still rely on their mom's milk. This is also the age they are able to stand up for the first time — which means it's time to start exploring!



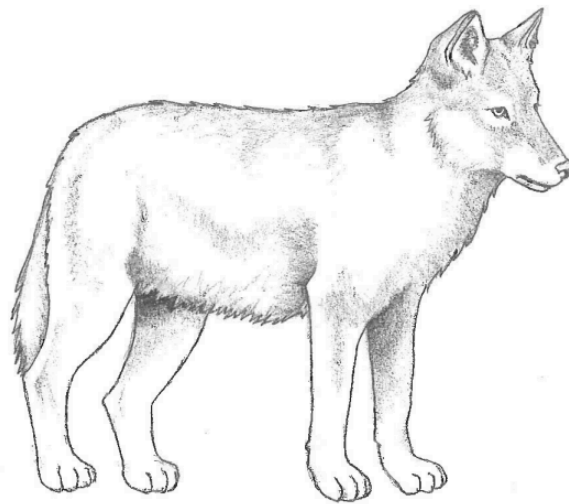
3. At about a month old, their ears begin to stand up and their hearing improves. Moms begin weaning the pups, meaning that the pups will slowly drink less milk and start eating more meat. They are much more social and active at this age and will begin to play with their siblings and follow their parents around outside of the **den**. A den is a home to protect the puppies and their mom from predators and harsh weather. Their parents may also leave them at the den around this age and go hunting.



Wolf pups live in a den. Can you help little Hunter find his den?



4. At two months old, the whole pack will leave the den site behind. Pups eat meat that the adults bring back from hunting.
5. When pups are between three-and-a-half months old and six months old, they go through a growth spurt, and their milk teeth get replaced by adult teeth, and eventually begin to follow adults on hunts. They also grow their first winter coat.



6. At six months to a year old, their growth will slow down and yearlings will begin to fully hunt. They will also accompany the pack everywhere they go, leaving the rendezvous site behind. They look almost identical to the adults.
7. When wolves are between 2-3 years old, they become ready to find mates. If they choose to find a mate, they will leave home, find their own territory, and start their own family.