Ecosystems
and
The Wolves of Yosemite



How do top predators affect their ecosystem?
How did reintroducing the wolves of Yellowstone affect the ecosystem?
was reintroducing the wolves the right thing to do?

EXPLORE & ENGAGE

Vocabulary:	Look up the definition of ECOSYSTEM and type it here: Look up the definition of PREDATOR and type it here: Look up the definition of PRIMARY PRODUCER and type it here: Look up the definition of PRIMARY CONSUMER and type it here: A "predator" is a [highlight the correct answer in yellow] A. Producer B. Primary Consumer C. Secondary Consumer
Watch: Video: "How Whales Change Climate"	What is a ***trophic cascade***? What happens when a top predator is removed from their native ecosystem? What happens when a top predator is returned into their native ecosystem?
Watch: Video: Yellowstone National Park **Explore on a Map:** Map of Yellowstone	Where is Yellowstone National Park compared to where we live? What does it look like there? Copy and paste a picture of Yellowstone here:

EXPLAIN & SHARE

Watch: Video: "How Wolves Change Rivers" Video: "How has Yellowstone Benefited" **Read:** Article: "Did Wolves Help Restore Trees to Yellowstone?"	Do you think it was the right thing to bring wolves back to Yellowstone? (*complete sentence, please!*) On a blank sheet of paper, create a thinking map that shows your reasons for your opinion above. When you are done, take a webcam photo of your thinking map and insert it here: Type your best reason from your thinking map here: Then copy and paste it onto the padlet board to share with the rest of the class: POST TO PADLET HERE

	(Hint: you may add some of your classmates' reasons to your thinking map!)
Research: **Find a picture of a Food Web of Yellowstone National Park (make sure it has wolves in it!) and paste it in the box to the right.**	
Draw: **On a blank piece of paper, draw the Food Web you copied, and paste the drawing in your Science Journal. Take a picture of it and paste the picture here.**	
View: Before & After Pictures of Yellowstone	How did Yellowstone change when the wolves were reintroduced?

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

Go to the Google Classroom assignment and write a four-paragraph opinion essay answering the following question:

> In 1995, gray wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park. Do you think this was the right thing to do? Write a 4-5 paragraph essay answering this question.

Here is the Grading Rubric I will use to score it.

EXTEND IT

When you are finished with your essay, create a new document (attached the Google Classroom assignment), and turn your essay into a letter to a Yellowstone National Park ranger. In the letter, you will need to convince the Ranger of your opinion and ask them to do something specific about it.
Contact Yellowstone National Park