

“A Top Dog Takes Over”

Please read the article from the National Wildlife Federation on the impact on the Yellowstone National Park Ecosystem. As you are reading consider the following concepts and questions:

1. How does the wolves reintroduction to the park impact biodiversity? What were some surprising results of their introduction with respect to biodiversity?
2. What happened to the ecosystem at Yellowstone National park when the wolves were eradicated 80 years ago? List the species that were impacted and what occurred to them specifically.
3. What was the driving force between the aspen tree decline at the park? What relationship does this have to the elk? To the wolves?
4. What special relationship exists between the wolf, aspen and the beaver?
5. What impact do moose have inside the park where hunting is not allowed? How does this compare to outside the park where they are harvested?
6. There are many “hidden connections” with the wolves reintroduction to the park. How do the wolves benefit songbirds?