

LOST WOLVES OF YELLOWSTONE

Learning Resources

Student Activities (grades 6-8)

IMAX



DIRECTIONS:

First, ask a partner to provide you with the following 15 words. Remind them not to overthink their choices! Next, add their choice of words, in order, to the passage on the next page. Finally, take turns reading each other's renditions out loud.

1. (ADJECTIVE) _____
2. (NUMBER) _____
3. (ADJECTIVE) _____
4. (SUPERLATIVE) _____
5. (OBJECT IN SPACE) _____
6. (BODY PART) _____
7. (ANIMAL) _____
8. (VERB) _____
9. (U.S. STATE) _____
10. (JOB TITLE) _____
11. (-ING VERB) _____
12. (-ING VERB) _____
13. (-ING VERB) _____
14. (ANIMAL) _____
15. (NATURE) _____

Known for their often _____ roles in fairytales, wolves are an easily identifiable animal for kids ages two to _____. Yet, wolves are not the _____ creatures that these stories make them out to be. Their scientific name, “canis lupus,” means “dog wolf” in Latin. Although similar in build to dogs, these wild creatures are larger and stronger than man’s _____ friend.

While wolves don’t howl at the moon or _____, their sounds can carry over 10 miles. Gray wolves are quite adaptable and intelligent. They are social and live in packs of 8-10. They’re apex predators, who use their 42 _____ to feed on elk, deer, and _____.

Gray wolves used to _____ the lands in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho (but not _____) since the early days when _____ Grant established Yellowstone National Park. But for the past 50 years, they have been missing due to human encroachment in the form of _____, _____, and _____.

In 1996, Mollie H. Beattie, the first-ever female director of the U.S. _____ and Wildlife Service, brought Canadian wolves back into the park in an effort to repopulate the area and right the ecological balance of the Lamar Valley.

Now, over 100 wolves live in Yellowstone, a national treasure known for its _____.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK: a bit of wordplay

For over 150 years, Yellowstone National Park and its wildlife has been a national treasure. In 1872, the United States' 19th President, Ulysses S. Grant, founded Yellowstone, which was the first such national park in the United States and in the world. The park is known for its magnificent landscapes, from the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone to the hydrothermal geyser, Old Faithful.



Yellowstone sits on top of an active volcano, resulting in more than 10,000 hot springs and half of the world's active geysers. Almost 5 million tourists flock to the park annually to witness the grandeur of the biodiversity the park offers. This relatively untouched 2.2 million acres (larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined!) provides a haven for outdoor recreation for humans and animals alike.

How many words can you create from the letters in YELLOWSTONE?
Set a timer for 2-5 minutes and see who can earn the most points
(e.g., 8-letter word = 8 points ... and yes, there is one!)





A hungry young wolf in the **night**,
Gave the villagers quite a bit **fright**.
He howled at the **moon**,
And sang a wild **tune**,
Then vanished from sight in the **light**.

Limericks are five-line poems that follow an A, A, B, B, A rhyme scheme. Their anapestic meter sounds like:

da DUM da da DUM da da DUM

Limericks are whimsical, often nonsensical and humorous poems. What can you write about the wolves who have now returned to Yellowstone Park?

DIRECTIONS: Draft a poem below following the characteristics of a limerick.

A
A
B
B
A

Onomatopoeia is a figure of speech where the word phonetically suggests the sound it describes. “HOWL” is an example where the word itself sounds like a wolf’s call. What other examples of onomatopoeia are found in nature? Start by thinking of some other animal sounds!

AN ECOLOGICAL PYRAMID

Wolves are omnivores sit at the top of the food chain as an apex predator. With their near extinction in Yellowstone National Park in the 1920s, the area's whole ecosystem was sent into collapse, causing a trophic cascade. Without wolves, the elk population exploded, leading to an overgrazing of key producers like aspen, willow, and cottonwood trees.

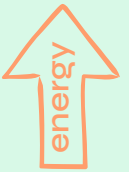
Without these trees, birds lost their habitats and beavers lost essential building materials. Without beavers and trees, the soil and streams also began to erode ... you literally can picture the chaos, can't you? And that was just one branch of what was a once balanced, thriving ecosystem.

With the reintroduction of wolves in the mid-1990s, another trophic cascade occurred, but this time order was restored to areas like Lamar Valley, increasing biodiversity and stability in Yellowstone National Park once again.

SECONDARY
CONSUMER

PRIMARY
CONSUMERS

PRODUCERS



DIRECTIONS: Cut out the below tabs and add them to the levels on this Yellowstone food chain. Feel free to draw in other likely organisms.



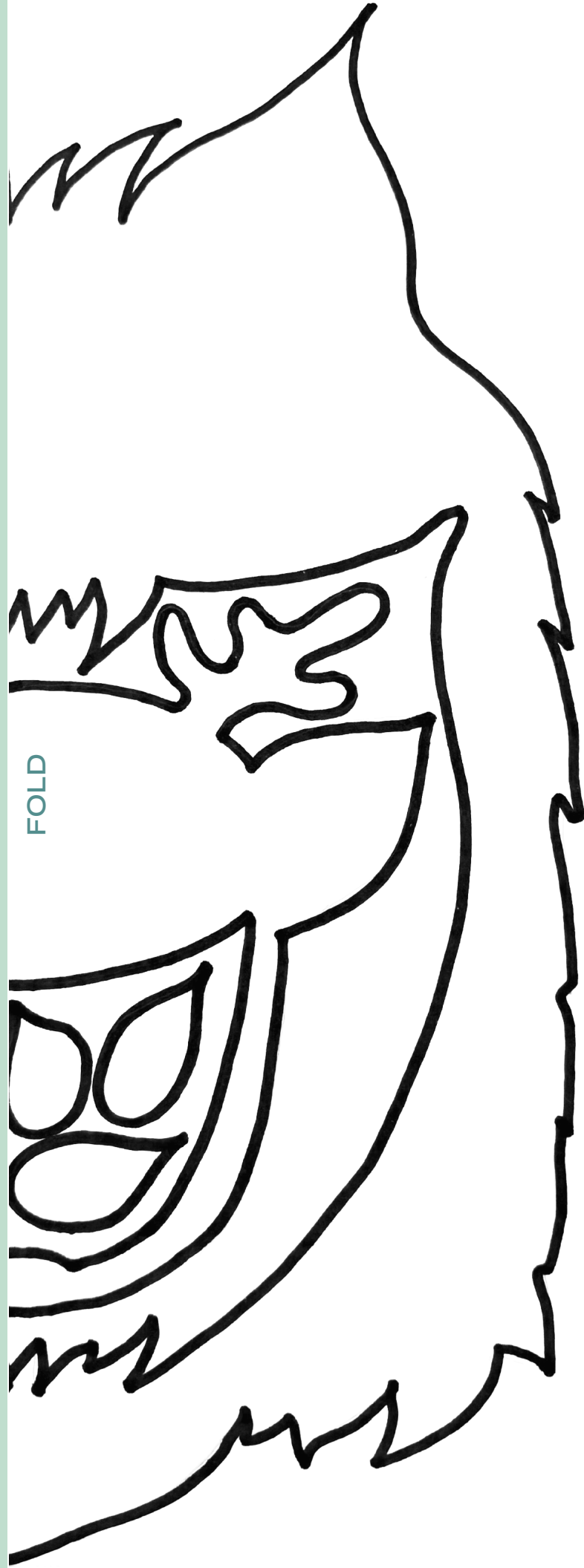
DIRECTIONS: Decision time! You can grab a piece of paper and use the image to the right as a template to cut or trace. Just make sure to first fold your paper in half before cutting.

Or, feel free to use construction paper to design and cut out your animal heads freeform.

Next, layer the heads to show which predator consumes which prey.



Do you know about the 10% rule, also known as the 10% law of energy transfer? In an ecological or trophic pyramid, only about 10% of the energy from one level is passed to the next.

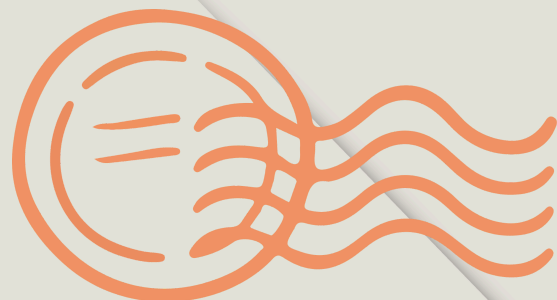


Mollie H. Beattie (1947-1996) was a modern-day pioneer. Not only as she the first female director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, but she also spearheaded the efforts to reintroduce the grey wolf to Yellowstone National Park.

As of the late 1920s, the grey wolf had been eradicated from the park by us, humans. The U.S. government wanted to protect elk, deer, and farmers' livestock from these natural predators. Yet their systematic removal turned Yellowstone's ecosystem upside down.

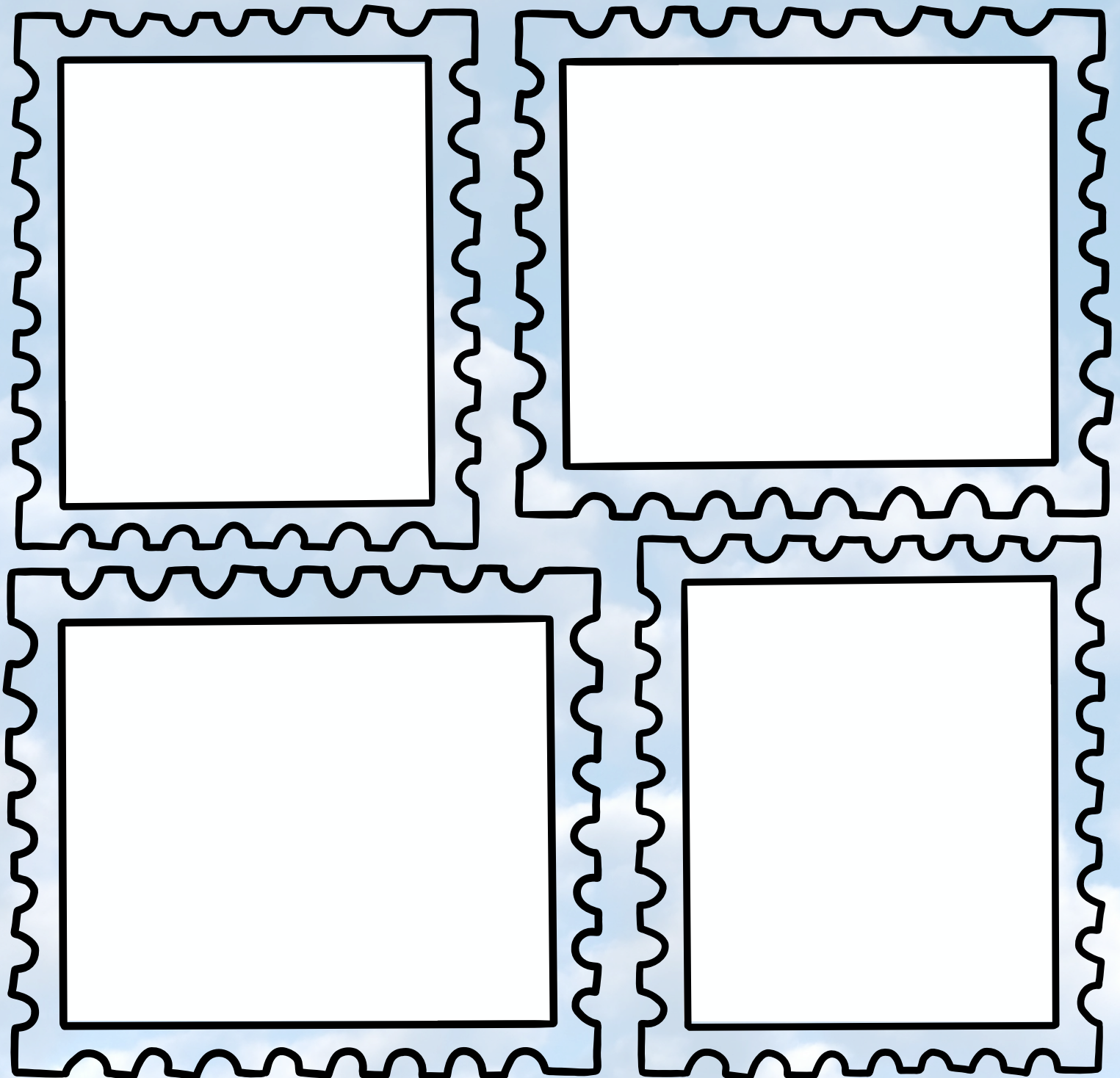
Decades later in 1995, Mollie H. Beattie, a fierce conservationist, and her team led a wolf restoration program, bringing 14 Canadian wolves into an enclosure in Lamar Valley. Over the next couple of years, 41 wolves were released, slowly bringing back order to the natural treasure of Yellowstone.

This original Crystal Creek pack of wolves has grown into one of the longest-running packs. Mollie H. Beattie passed away at the young age of 49 due to cancer. However, her legacy lives on. Then-President Clinton renamed the eight-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness to Mollie Beattie Wilderness. Her home state of Vermont named Mollie Beattie State Forest in her honor. And due to her memorable role in wolf conservation, that Crystal Creek wolf pack is now and forever known as "Mollie's Pack."



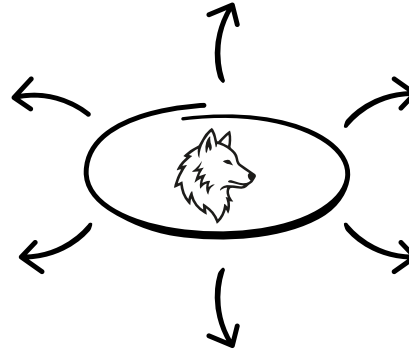
Beginning in 1893, the United States Postal Service began releasing limited editions of postage stamps commemorating significant events, honorable people, notable landmarks, and cultural milestones. You can learn more about the selection criteria and artwork requirements at <https://about.usps.com/who/csac>.

DIRECTIONS: Create a series of stamps to honor the national treasure of Yellowstone. What or whom will you honor? Mollie H. Beattie? The grey wolf? What designs, colors, and elements would you choose to include?



WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG, BAD

-----?

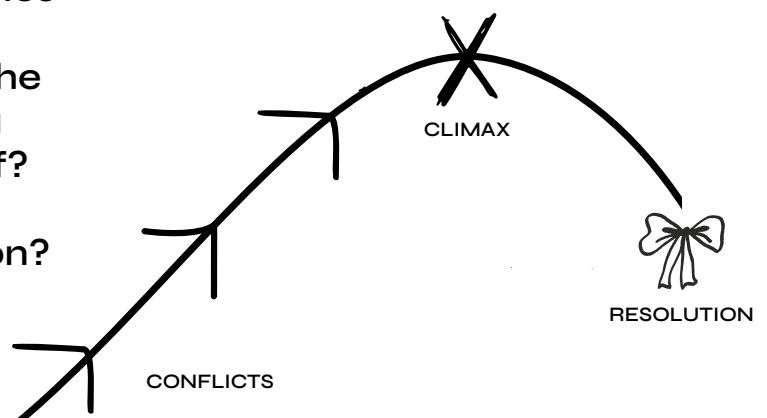


Traditionally, wolves are the antagonists in nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and folklore. Think back to your favorite childhood stories. Which had wolves as villains? List the stories on the above mind map.

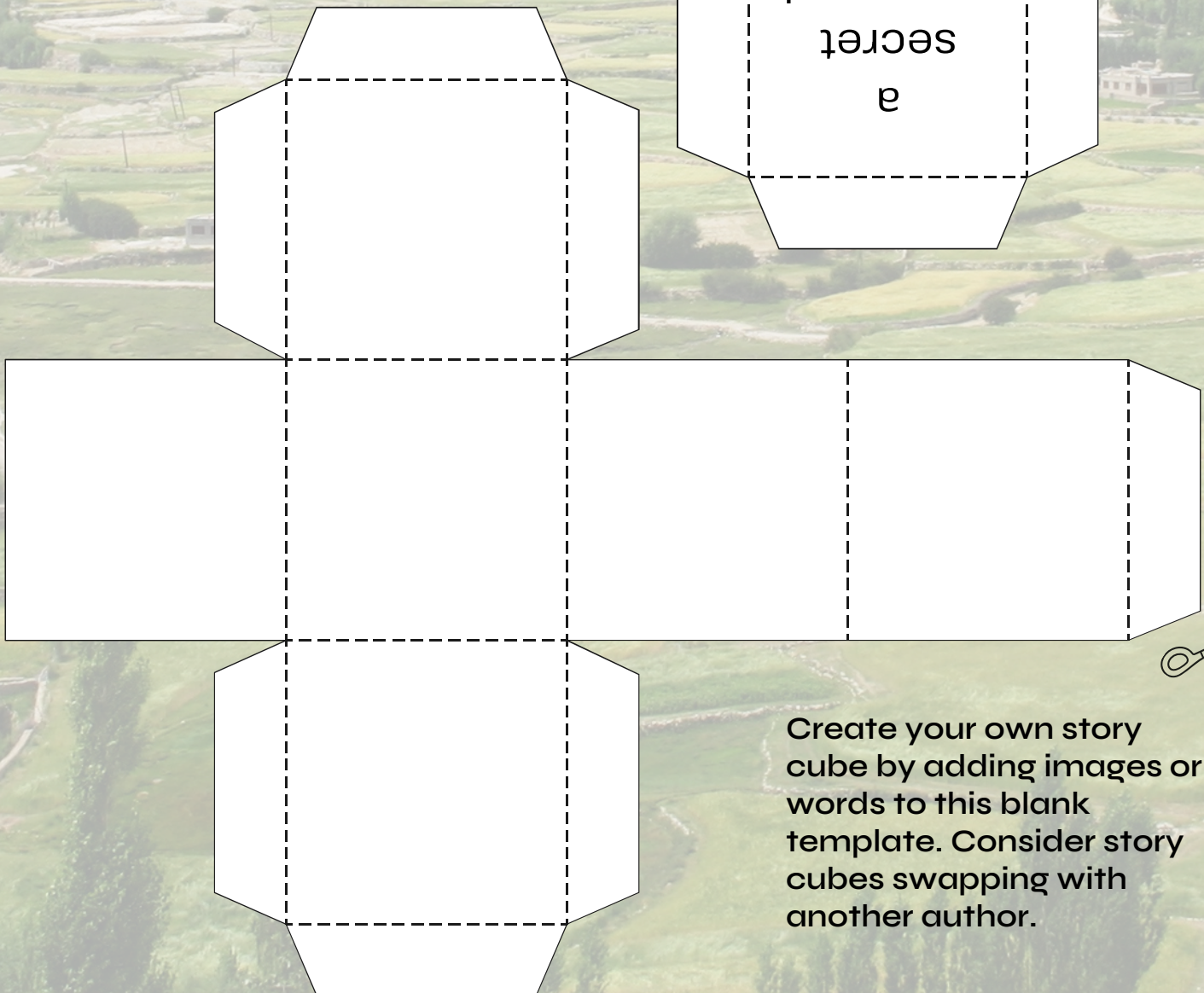
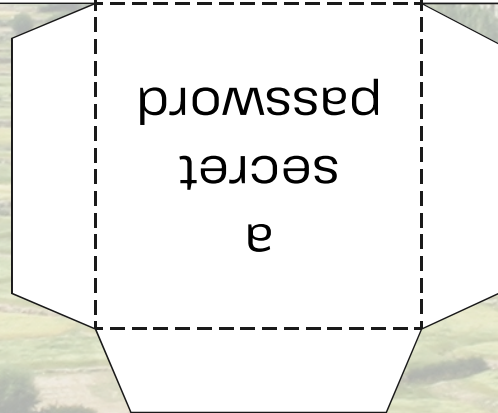
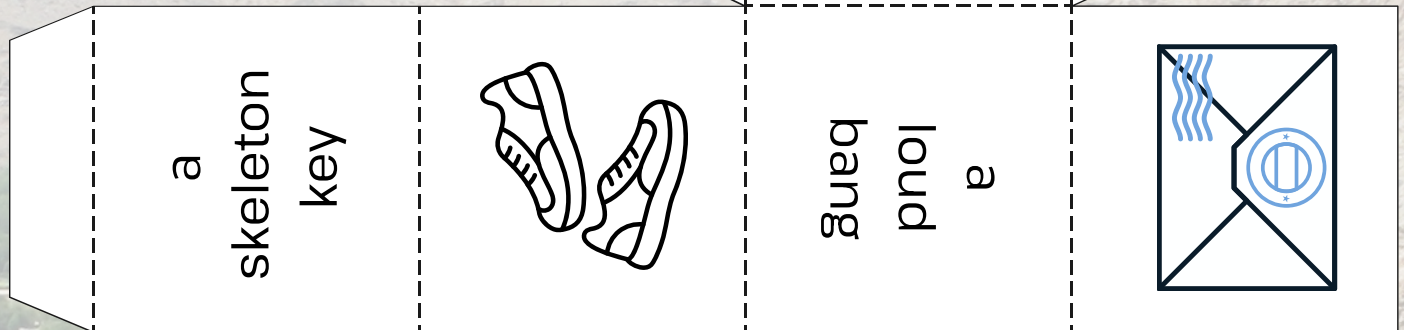
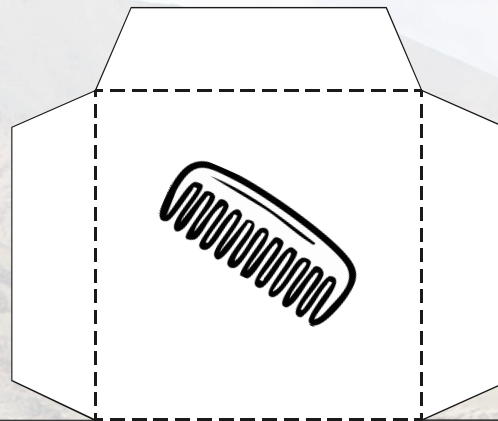
Sometimes, we hear stories from only one point of view. Gregory Maguire wrote Wicked, based on the classic Oz series by L. Frank Baum (1856–1919). Since Baum's work was in the public domain, Maguire could put his own spin on the beloved characters. He told the story from a different point of view, that of the Wicked Witch of the West. His first adult novel became an award-winning play and now an award-winning movie.

Children's author Jon Scieszka turned the three little pigs on its head by telling the tale from the perspective of A. Wolf in The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs! And now it is your turn.

DIRECTIONS: Grab a piece of paper and choose one of the stories you listed above to recount. This time, however, tell the tale from the wolf's point of view. How can you make us empathize with the wolf? Sketch a quick story arc to get started. Still need some inspiration? Cut out and construct the story cubes on the next page to help you shake up the expected story as needed.



Cut along the outer solid lines and then fold along the dotted lines. Use tape or glue on the flaps to create the six-sided cube.



Create your own story cube by adding images or words to this blank template. Consider story cubes swapping with another author.

Contact your local
IMAX theater to
book a field trip
and explore an
inspiring
IMAX
documentary.

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