

Dear Educator,

Make your students' new year a howling success with this free **Alpha and Omega** educational program from Lionsgate Entertainment and curriculum specialists Young Minds Inspired (YMI).

Based on the exciting animated family film, available on DVD January 11, 2011, this teaching kit will engage your students in an array of map-reading, language arts, and environmental science skills through the inspiring adventures of an unlikely pair of young wolves whose story teaches the value of cooperation and compromise and the power of the family bond. Viewing the DVD is not necessary for students to complete these activities, however, it will enhance learning outcomes.

Please share this kit with other teachers. Although these materials are protected by copyright, you may make as many copies as you need. **Please return the enclosed reply card to let us know your opinion of the program.** We depend on your feedback to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in children's lives.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

 is the only company developing free, innovative classroom materials that is owned and directed by award-winning former teachers. Visit our website at www.ymiclassroom.com to send feedback and download more free programs. For questions, contact us at 1-800-859-8005 or e-mail us at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

LIONSGATE

ALPHA AND OMEGA

Program Objectives

- To strengthen vocabulary skills.
- To develop geographical awareness and improve map-reading skills.
- To educate students about the importance of conservation efforts for wolves.

Target Audience

This program is designed for use with students in grades 1-4. The activities may be tailored to suit the needs and abilities of your students. Please visit www.ymiclassroom.com/pdf/alphaandomegastandards.pdf to review alignment of individual activities to national standards.

How to Use This Program

Review and schedule the program materials to suit your timeframe. Display the poster in a prominent location and read the film synopsis aloud prior to beginning the activities. Distribute a copy of each activity master to each child. Computer access is needed for activities 1 and 3.

Film Synopsis

In the wolf pack there are alphas...and then there are omegas. While both are important to the entire species, everyone knows the two shouldn't mix. But when a park ranger removes Kate, an alpha and the daughter of the western pack leader, and Humphrey, a young wolf of the same pack, from their home in Jasper Park, Canada, and takes them to Sawtooth Park, Idaho, the young wolves must reconcile their differences and work together to find their way back to their pack to prevent disaster. With inspiration and adventure, the story of their exciting journey leads to special discoveries about themselves and about the real bonds within their pack.

Activity One Making Tracks

Part A. Answers: 1. U.S./Canadian border; 2. Rocky Mountains; 3. Kootenai (also, Kootenay) or Columbia Rivers; 4. Salmon River; 5. Bitterroot and Salmon River Mountains

Part B. Schedule time for students to view the satellite and terrain maps of the Rocky Mountain range between Jasper Park, Canada, and Sawtooth Park (National Recreation Area), Idaho, on Google or Bing. Can students imagine traveling this path as a wolf? As a human? As a class, discuss the factors involved—braving the elements, encounters with wildlife, traversing the rocky footing, etc. Have students use the back of their paper to write about and/or illustrate their ideas.

Activity Two Word Journey

Read the information about *alpha* and *omega* together with students aloud. Then direct students to complete the word search and match the character traits: Kate—serious, leader, strong, dependable; Humphrey—silly, goofy, playful, funny.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | Y | X | G | O | O | F | Y | P | N | S | X |
| C | C | Q | S | Q | R | U | D | L | G | R | L |
| B | L | D | E | P | E | N | D | A | B | L | E |
| A | E | H | R | L | M | N | O | Y | P | Q | A |
| J | B | S | I | P | G | Y | L | F | N | P | D |
| S | T | R | O | N | G | K | M | U | B | D | E |
| Q | F | X | U | L | B | Q | S | L | E | A | R |
| B | U | R | S | V | S | I | L | L | Y | C | H |

Alpha and Omega Challenge: If viewing the DVD with students, prompt them to add more traits to the lists for Kate and Humphrey.

Activity Three Pack Facts

Share the answers after students complete the activity. Then have them visit the URLs below for more wolf information and photos of real wolves they can download and display near the program poster. **Answers:** Statements 1-5 and 10-11 are facts; 6-9 and 12 are fables. Some additional facts:

1. The gray wolf is the largest of the species. It is 5-6 feet long from head to tail.
2. Wolves once roamed North America and Europe, but today habitat loss and hunting have reduced their population.
3. Wolves have a keen sense of hearing and smell. They are well adapted to their environment and to finding food.
4. You are more likely to be struck by lightning than to be attacked by a wolf.
5. Wolf packs have a social order. The alpha male and his mate are the only animals of the pack to breed.
6. Wolf howls have several meanings, including territorial, hunting, play, and pack bonding. Wolf howls can be heard up to six miles away!
7. Wolves are carnivorous and eat large hoofed animals such as deer, elk, and moose, as well as smaller mammals, birds, fish, lizards, and snakes.
8. Wolves travel and hunt in packs of around six to 10 animals.
9. Wolves roam large distances—up to 12 miles in a single day.
10. Wolves prey mostly on the sick and weakest of the large wild animals in their ecosystems. This helps maintain biological diversity.
11. Because they contribute so strongly to the health of the ecosystems they populate, wolf conservation is an important factor in environmental balance.
12. Wolves communicate with their entire bodies, using facial expressions, body postures, scent marking, and growls.

Internet Resources

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/wolf/>
www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/wildlife_conservation/imperiled_species/wolves/wolf_facts/why_restore_wolves.php
www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/wildlife_conservation/imperiled_species/wolves/wolf_facts/biology.php

Activity One **Making Tracks**

Part A. In the film *Alpha and Omega*, Kate and Humphrey find themselves a long way from their home in Jasper Park, Canada—820 miles away, that is! Use the maps at right to locate and record the names of places that Kate and Humphrey will cross on their long journey home.

1. An international border:

2. A major mountain range:

3. A river in Canada:

4. A river in Idaho:

5. Two smaller mountain ranges in Idaho:

and _____
6. Two more geographical features you find interesting:

and _____



Put yourself in Kate and Humphrey's paws when *Alpha and Omega* arrives on DVD, January 11, 2011!

Activity Two **Word Journey**

To the ancient Greeks, *alpha* and *omega* were the first and last letters of their alphabet, so they sometimes used these words to mean *first* and *last* or *beginning* and *end*. Alpha and omega can also be used to describe two opposites. In the film *Alpha and Omega*, Kate and Humphrey may be in the same pack but they are opposites when it comes to their personalities.

Find the words below that make Kate and Humphrey *Alpha and Omega* opposites. Then list the traits that match each character under their names.

Words to find:

dependable, funny, goofy, leader, playful, serious, silly, strong

Alpha (Kate)

Omega (Humphrey)

Y Y X G O O F Y P N S X
 C C Q S Q R U D L G R L
 B L D E P E N D A B L E
 A E H R L M N O Y P Q A
 J B S I P G Y L F N P D
 S T R O N G K M U B D E
 Q F X U L B Q S L E A R
 B U R S V S I L L Y C H



Alpha and Omega Challenge:

Watch the *Alpha and Omega* DVD and add more character traits to Kate and Humphrey's profiles!

Put yourself in Kate and Humphrey's paws when *Alpha and Omega* arrives on DVD, January 11, 2011!

Activity Three **Pack Facts**

Do you know your Pack Facts? Take our Fact or Fable quiz to find out!
Check the box that describes the statement.

Wolf Statements

| | Fact | Fable |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Wolves are the ancestors of all domesticated dogs. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Wolves are endangered animals. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Wolves are highly intelligent. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Wolves are very afraid of people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The alpha male and female wolves are the most important wolves in the pack. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. A wolf howls because it is angry. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Wolves only eat farm animals. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. A wolf pack can be as large as 50 animals. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Wolves can only roam about five miles a day. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Wolves play an important role in the health of an ecosystem. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Wolf conservation is important. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Wolves communicate with one another only by howling. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Now use the resources suggested by your teacher to find out more information about wolves.



Put yourself in Kate and Humphrey's paws when **Alpha and Omega** arrives on DVD, January 11, 2011!

JUSTIN
LONG

HAYDEN
PANETTIERE

DENNIS
HOPPER

DANNY
GLOVER

CHRISTINA
AND RICCI

ALPHA AND OMEGA



“A HOWLING GOOD TIME!”

- MSN Movies

CREST
ANIMATION

PG
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

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www.alphaandomegadvd.com

LIONSGATE
www.lionsgateblu-ray.com [NYSE: LGF]

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