

Grades 6-8

Nature, “Dogs in the Land of Lions”

NATURE takes viewers into the heart of an African wild dog family. When lions kill her mate, a wild dog mother called Puzzles suddenly must raise two generations of pups all on her own without the help of a pack. Witness the loyalty and selflessness that sets wild dogs apart from other large, social carnivores in this deeply intimate portrayal of motherhood. But in this unforgiving Zimbabwe wilderness, it turns out the top dogs are the big cats - lions are the wild dogs' ultimate enemies. The young dogs provide some light-hearted moments while discovering the world around them, but as they grow up, they must face these eternal enemies on their journey to independence.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- Using evidence from Nature: “Dogs in the Land of Lions”, explain why this is a good title for this TV program.
- Identify specific details in Nature: “Nature’s Dogs in the Land of Lions” that focus on the author’s purpose.
- What is this program “saying”? Cite several pieces of evidence to support your analysis.
- Provide at least two quotes of evidence that support the main claims.

Question Box 2

- What would you change about this program?
- If a part 2 of this program was created, what would you like them to focus on?
- What would you like to research for extra credit? Why?
- Now that it’s over, what are my first thoughts about this program? Are they mostly positive or negative? Explain?
- What is the most important thing I learned personally?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Describe with evidence the how the dogs interact socially and why that is important to their survival?
- Draw one of the animals in the video interacting in its habitat.
- Visit this website to put together a picture of Puzzle and her pups.
<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/pieces-of-puzzles-puzzle-game/16750/>

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Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Draw a map and show the areas where wild dogs are found.
- Research and list five fun facts about wild dogs.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Explore careers that work with animals. <https://www.glassdoor.com/blog/working-with-animals-coolest-jobs/> . Did any of these intrigue you? Explore that career further to determine if this is something that you might pursue.
- Compare and contrast very wild dogs and one of the large cats (lions, leopards, cheetahs). How do they interact with each other?
- Nature often gives us a way to practice mindfulness. Connecting with nature has a calming effect on our bodies and minds. Next time you take a walk, take a moment to use your sense to connect with nature. What do you see, hear, smell? Pay attention to the wildlife around you. When you get home, write down in your journal your experience.