

Return of the wolves: Isle Royale National Park
“Lessons from the wilderness”
Student Viewing Guide

Introduction:

You’re about to begin watching a video on the ecosystem of Isle Royale National Park.

As we start, we’ll watch the first two minutes of the video as an introduction. After the first two minutes, record your thoughts in the *Notice, Think, Wonder* organizer below.

What did I notice?	What does this make me think about?	What do I wonder?

Part 1 (Jigsaw)

As you watch and listen to Part 1 of the video (about 15 minutes long), jot down interesting facts about your assigned part of the ecosystem. Later, we'll compare notes with others in class to fill in all the information.

Ecosystem Component	Notes
Abiotic (Non-Living) Parts of the Ecosystem	
Moose	

Beaver

Wolves

After meeting with your group and sharing notes, answer these questions:

<p>What are the attributes that make Isle Royale a good laboratory for predator/prey studies?</p>	
<p>In the video, one of the NPS rangers describes moose as “landscape mowers.”</p> <p>Predict the effects of an increased moose population on the island’s trees.</p>	

Part 2 (Clock partners)

Before watching Part 2, make predictions for each of the questions. As you watch the video, you may fill in the last column. After Part 2, you'll meet with your partners to compare your observations.

Question:	My Prediction:	What I learned from the video:
Wolves are an apex predator. What happens to the ecosystem of Isle Royale when there are very few apex predators ?		
What are some key questions researchers want to learn about wolves (now that they've been reintroduced)?		

<p>What are some key questions researchers want to know about the moose?</p>		
<p>How might an increase in moose and beaver populations change the biodiversity (number of different species) on the island?</p>		

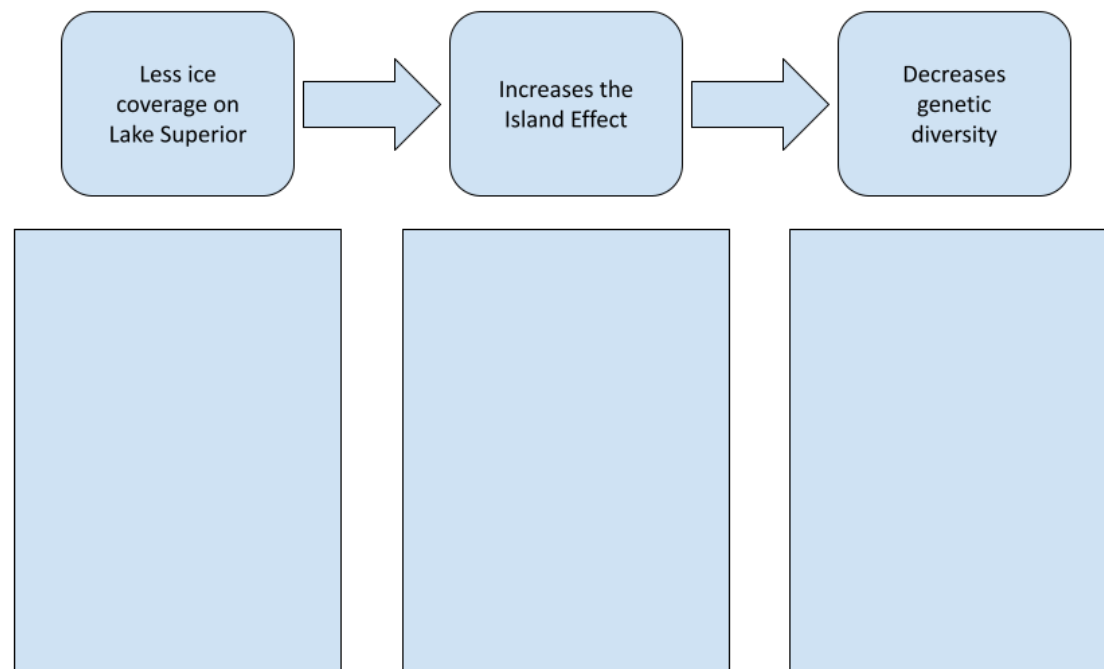
Part 3

In this last part of the video, the researchers and park service leaders discuss their decision to bring new wolves onto the island, starting in 2019. The decision was not made lightly, and there was a lot of discussion amongst scientists for many years before any action was taken. Some people advocated to “let nature take its course,” while others argued that it was more important to maintain the ecosystem by intentionally interfering with it.

- You will be collecting evidence to support (or refute) the National Park Service’s decision to bring new wolves to Isle Royale.

How will climate change affect the island’s:		
Forests	Moose	Wolves

Work with a partner or small group to add evidence and explanations in the boxes of this model, to show how a warming climate may be related to the Isle Royale wolf population collapse in the past ten years. Use your Student Viewing Guide notes and your Student Glossary to help.



Work with your partner or small group to make a claim and support it.

As we work to slow climate change, is it appropriate for humans to interfere in the Isle Royale ecosystem by introducing wolves?

Support your position with evidence and reasoning from the video and viewing guide.