

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 *See, Think, Wonder* organizer below.

What did I see?	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	

Part 2 (Clock partners)

Before watching Part 2, make some predictions and fill in one question of your own. 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:
<p>Wolves are an apex predator.</p> <p>What happens to the ecosystem of Isle Royale when there are very few apex predators?</p>		
<p>How do scientists get information about the wolves on the island?</p>		

How do scientists get information about the moose on the island?		
Something that I'm wondering about how research is done on Isle Royale:		

--	--	--

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.

- You will be collecting evidence to support (or refute) the National Park Service’s decision to bring new wolves to Isle Royale.
- After the video, you’ll “vote with your feet” if the NPS did the right thing or not. Be prepared to support your position.

Evidence	
How did moose get to Isle Royale?	How did wolves get to Isle Royale?
How will climate change affect moose?	How will climate change affect other biotic (living) parts of the Isle Royale ecosystem?

How will climate change affect the abiotic (non-living) parts of Isle Royale? (Hint: Think about ice!)	How will climate change affect the wolves?

How will changes in moose and wolf populations affect the rest of the plant and animal communities on Isle Royale?

How are the new wolves on Isle Royale doing?