1.4

What is the value of Wolves?

Intro:





What are your first impressions or thoughts?

Different views of the wolf and its story in North America:

1. Native American People had certain views
   1. Cooperation
   2. Tireless hunter and predator
   3. Admiration
2. European settler had certain views
   1. Villain
   2. Preyed on livestock
   3. Pest

Decline of the wolf:

1. Wolves competed with settlers for bison and destroyed livestock and were thought to kill humans.
2. Settlers, bison hunters and cattle ranchers poisoned and killed off thousands of wolves
3. Bounty of up to $400 for adult wolf carcass paid across North America
4. More than 80 000 wolves killed between 1883 and 1918
5. A significant part of the food chain was virtually eliminated. Tertiary level destroyed by humans
6. Coyotes filled the “niche” and their population grew. They were the next dominant (Tertiary) predator in the food chain.
7. This created a ripple effect in the ecosystem:

Complete the following chart to compare the wolf and the coyote and their effects on the environment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wolf | Coyote |
| Relative size |  |  |
| Method of hunting |  |  |
| Prey |  |  |
| Other species depending on them for food |  |  |
| Competing species |  |  |

Answer

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wolf | Coyote |
| Relative size | large | small |
| Method of hunting | in packs | individually |
| Prey | bison, elk, cattle, sheep | mice, voles, ground squirrels, ground-nesting birds and their eggs, (domestic birds) |

1. The return of wolves in Yellowstone National park began in 1987 with wolves form Alberta Canada.
2. Wildlife managers were trying to create the balance in the ecosystem that was destroyed when wolves were removed.

Section Questions:

1. Read the perspectives on wolves and take a position. Page 21. Write a paragraph that explains your point of view. Remember it need to be

decisive.

<http://video.google.ca/videoplay?docid=-1659625022718623221&vt=lf&hl=en>