

# Song of the Coyote

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Tan 1c  
Power Builder

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The night is black. A coyote stands high on a hill. Its eyes shine in the darkness. It lifts its head. It howls. The wild sound fills the air. The coyote's howl is the night song of the mountains.

Coyotes look like small wolves. Their soft fur is gray and yellow. They belong to the dog family. In some ways they are like dogs. But they are wild.

Coyote pups are born in the spring. A mother will have about six pups at a time. At first, the father brings them food. Later, the mother hunts too. She will teach her pups to hunt.

Coyotes eat all kinds of things. They eat birds. They eat eggs. They eat snakes and insects. But they like rabbits best.

They are very clever. Often two of them hunt together. One digs at a rabbit's front door. The other waits at the back of the burrow. The rabbit runs out the back. The coyotes have lunch!

There are fewer coyotes now than there used to be. However the coyote's howl still fills the night. It still sings of being wild and free.

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1** This story is mostly about
  - a** how a coyote lives.
  - b** why a coyote sings.
- 2** Coyote pups follow their mother because she
  - a** brings them things to eat.
  - b** teaches them how to hunt.
- 3** The coyote digs at the rabbit's front door
  - a** to make the rabbit run out the back way.
  - b** to catch the rabbit when it runs out the front door.

**4** The writer thinks the coyote's howl is a

- a** wild song about hunting for rabbits.
  - b** night song about living free.
- 5** Coyotes most likely wouldn't be good pets because they like to
- a** run in pairs.
  - b** live in the wild.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Words change spelling when they mean more than one.

one pup → two pups

Write each word below so that it means more than one.

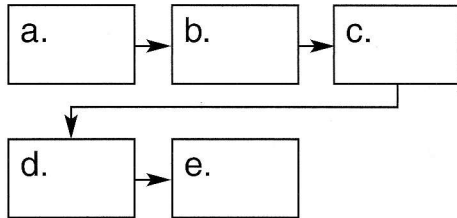
- 1** coyote
- 2** rabbit
- 3** pup
- 4** snake
- 5** insect

**C** Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6** A coyote family is a mother, a father, and some \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7** Coyotes eat rabbits, insects, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8** Some dogs and small wolves look like \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9** Coyotes work together to catch \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10** Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ fly right into a coyote's mouth.

## THINK ABOUT IT

- D** Look at the story map below. Complete each story map by writing the letter that tells in what order each event happened.



- 1 One coyote digs at the rabbit's door. The other waits at the back of the burrow. \_\_\_\_
- 2 When the pups are old enough to hunt, they will hunt rabbits. \_\_\_\_
- 3 The mother coyote teaches the pups how to hunt. \_\_\_\_
- 4 The father coyote brings the pups food. \_\_\_\_
- 5 The rabbit runs out of the back of the burrow and is caught. \_\_\_\_

- E** Read each set of words. Write the word that comes first in alphabetical order.

- |    |         |          |       |
|----|---------|----------|-------|
| 6  | tonight | together | today |
| 7  | hill    | high     | hide  |
| 8  | small   | smell    | smile |
| 9  | spring  | special  | spill |
| 10 | block   | blew     | black |