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I am a coyote



Hello!

Do you know how to tell the difference between a wolf and me. I'm a coyote. Yes, I might be related to the grey wolf, but I'm a bit smaller, and usually found alone or with a mate.

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I am like a medium to large-sized dog, and weigh in at about 20 to 40 kilogrammes. The other way you can tell me from a wolf is that I move about with my tail down, whereas a wolf moves with its tail held level.

We often hunt for small animals alone. But we hunt in small packs – groups – when we spot something like a deer. Then we attack it head on, not from behind like wolves.

After the prey is brought down, we get a good meal. But even after we have had as much as we can eat, there is often some left over, so we bury it carefully for eating in times when prey is not so common.

But don't think we just eat deer and large animals like that. If there

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is one thing I will say about me and my fellow coyotes, it is that we are adaptable.

We are perfectly happy to eat rodents like prairie dogs, which are our main source of food. We catch those by pouncing, which looks to you like jumping up in the air.

We have different tactics for rabbits and hares. We also eat birds, lizards, frogs, fish and insects. We will also eat leaves and fruit, but you have probably also seen your pet dog do that, so it's not very unusual.

In fact, being so adaptable is the key to our success. If we were specialist hunters, we would find it harder to get enough food, and we might go hungry

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and die out. As it is, we are very successful.

Most of the time we don't live anywhere particularly sheltered

But when we're about to have pups, we live around a den. It's a large burrow, usually dug and abandoned by some other animal.

We bring up our pups in dens, but if we can't make a den, we will also use hollow trees or even an overhanging ledge of rock.

The pups grow up quickly and learn to fight when they are just 3 weeks old. They are fully grown in just eight months. Then they go off and make a life for themselves.

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They just have to watch out for the grey wolf, for it's bigger than us, and not keen to share its territory!



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But you probably know of me because of my night-time calls. I do several kinds of call, but most people remember the howl, because it carries over long distances.

It's not an attack noise, by the way, but sounding the alarm, or just letting other coyotes know where I am.



Share the knowledge: pass me to a friend.

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