



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “Canines” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “Canines” unit offers [16 pages](#).

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# Canines



# CANINES

Dogs and their close relatives belong to the family canidae, sometimes called canines. Dogs are not the only animals in the group. Dogs, wolves, jackals, foxes, coyotes, dholes, and dingoes are all canines.

Canines all have similar shaped bodies, no matter what their size or habitat. The bodies have not changed in thousands of years. This may be because they can adapt to life almost anywhere on earth. They have not had to develop special body parts to survive.



Most canines have legs that are long and have strong muscles. This is because they chase their prey. They have toenails that help them run by digging into the dirt to avoid slipping, sort of like the cleats on football shoes.



Canines walk on the ends of their toe bones instead of the bottom of their feet. This foot structure is called digitigrade. Canines also have sweat glands in the pads of their feet.



All canines are mammals and have babies. Most young canines are mature at about one year old.



## COYOTES

Coyotes have spread their population from Canada on the north to parts of South America. They exist only in the Western Hemisphere. No matter where they live, all coyotes are members of the genus *Canis latrans*.



The size of most coyotes is about 4 feet long, counting the tail and about 2 feet tall. Their average weight is 25 to 30 pounds. Their color is in various shades of yellow with brown, gray or black mixed in.

Coyotes usually live alone or in groups of no more than 5 unless they are raising pups. Coyotes do not stay together as mates.

Coyotes are omnivorous. They prefer meat and their favorite prey are rodents like rats, gophers, prairie dogs, and squirrels. In the summer and fall, they are quite happy to eat berries and even have snatched watermelon and other fruits from gardens. Insects and lizards may also be part of their diets.

These canines have had problems with ranchers and farmers. They may take poultry from a farm yard. Coyotes do not kill larger livestock, but have been blamed for it. They do eat the leftover meat when wolves or feral dog packs have killed sheep or cattle.

Look up the definition of omnivorous.  
Write it on the lines below.

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# C A N I N E S

## CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?  
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

- |        |       |        |        |
|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| coyote | feral | dingo  | canine |
| jackal | dhole | wolves | dogs   |

